

# HAM RADIO

# HUMOR

R. W. JOHNSON

W6MUR



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# **HAM RADIO HUMOR**

By  
R. W. Johnson  
W6MUR

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*To Florence, who hoped to live  
long enough to see this published,  
but the printer outlasted her.*

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**“My wife says I spend too much time hamming.”**

## PREFACE

In these troubled times humor can make us forget, at least for a while, the problems and frustrations we face. I hope that in some small way this book will help in that temporary escape. If I offend anyone, or any group, I here and now apologize and defend my error by saying that it was all in good fun.

I especially want to thank Jim Maxwell, W6CF, and J. C. Van Groos, W6GFY, for their contributions and assistance. I also want to thank the American Radio Relay League and Aero Electronics for giving permission to reproduce certain of their copyrighted material. While much of the material in this book is original, "dreamed up" in the course of writing it, some things are from various archives and their origin is unknown. Where a source is known, credit is given.

My thanks to Tina Howard of Felton for her illustrations and the cover design.

Now that at least one Ham Radio Humor book has been published, I fervently hope there will be others. There is much untapped in this avocation of ours that can make us laugh, and laughs we sorely need—in a few more years that may be all we have left.

R. W. (Bill) Johnson  
W6MUR

## A SMILE

A Smile costs nothing, but it gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but memory of it may last forever. None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it. And none is so poor that he can't be made rich by it.

A Smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business—and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and is Nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet, it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen. For it is something of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a Smile. Give them one of yours. None needs a Smile so much as he who has no more to give.

—Origin Unknown



from *QST*, April 1965.  
By permission.

## FAMOUS CERTIFICATES AND SIGNS

The certificate is, among other things, a status symbol, the proof of accomplishment. Some collect them like QSL cards and there are even clubs for certificate hunters.

On the following pages are three certificates you may add to your collection, if you are a collector. The first, the R.A.C., you can apply for at any time and since the certificate is timeless, you can get more of them as you collect more of the certificates issued by others.

The second, the WATVS, is surprisingly difficult to get. You will find some people most uncooperative in not trying to watch their TV sets when you are on the air, or because they have purchased high-pass filters and outside antennas pointed away from you.

The third certificate, the Midwife Certificate issued by MIASMA, is the easiest of the three to obtain. All you need is a location, antenna and receiver good enough to hear something the others don't, and you're in business. Simply make up your list and feed the stations to the DX one by one, like peanuts to an elephant. But don't be surprised if other elephants turn up their trunks because they can't stand the smell.

Finally, the Expert in Radio Destruction (ERD) can be obtained by anyone with the will and determination.

**WE HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED IN ANSWERING ALL OF OUR PROBLEMS—INDEED WE SOMETIMES FEEL WE HAVE NOT COMPLETELY ANSWERED ANY OF THEM. THE ANSWERS WE HAVE FOUND HAVE ONLY SERVED TO RAISE A WHOLE SET OF NEW QUESTIONS. IN SOME WAYS WE FEEL THAT WE ARE AS CONFUSED AS EVER, BUT WE THINK WE ARE CONFUSED ON A HIGHER LEVEL AND ABOUT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS.**

## 5BDXCC IN A YEAR

**THEY TOLD HIM THE JOB COULDN'T BE DONE.  
HE ROLLED UP HIS SLEEVES AND WENT TO IT.  
HE TACKLED THE JOB THAT COULDN'T BE DONE . . . .  
— AND HE COULDN'T DO IT**

# R. A. C.

## RECEIVED ALL CERTIFICATES

*This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ has submitted proof of having received every certificate ever issued to this date, dealing with Amateur Radio. Since there is no doubt no more room left on the wall, an engraved cup is issued simultaneously with this certificate, around which this certificate may be wrapped.*

Certified by \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Issued by: International Certificate  
Printers and Cup Makers  
Association, Inc.

Geneva, Switzerland  
I.T.U. Building

das certifikat ist printen in  
das disunitet states de ameriken.

# W A T V S

## WORKED ALL TV SETS

No. —

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ has submitted proof in the form of FCC tickets and Quiet Hours Orders of having been seen or heard on all local TV sets within a one-mile radius of his \_\_\_\_\_ or her \_\_\_\_\_ station.

ENDORSEMENTS:

<input type="text"/>	2 MILES	<input type="text"/>	3 MILES	<input type="text"/>	4 MILES	<input type="text"/>	5 MILES	<input type="text"/>	6 MILES
----------------------	---------	----------------------	---------	----------------------	---------	----------------------	---------	----------------------	---------

Certified by \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Granted \_\_\_\_\_

Issued by: American Institute of  
TV Repairmen, Inc., Washington, D.C. 20566

MIDWIVES INTERNATIONAL AMATEURS  
SENDING-MOSTLY ASSOCIATION



MIDWIFE CERTIFICATE

TO:

FOR HIS LIST OPERATIONS FOR \_\_\_\_\_  
AND OTHERS TOO WEAK TO BEHEARDON \_\_\_\_\_ MHz.

No. 73— \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Awarded by STY, INC. MIASMA TRUSTEE  
“SOMETHING SMELLS”

**E. R. D.\*  
HUM RADIO MAGAZINE  
CERTIFIES THAT**

\_\_\_\_\_, E.R.D.\* has submitted proof of successfully destroying \$15,000 worth of radio equipment by intentional misoperation. This certificate entitles the holder to HUM Radio Course No. 7388, an advanced course covering the use of screwdrivers, pliers, cutters and wrenches in the science of radio destruction.

*Mura K. Howlett*

*President, HUM Radio Magazine*

\*Expert in Radiodestruction

A  
NEAT SHACK  
IS A SIGN  
OF A  
SICK MIND

# PARKING VIOLATION

VEHICLE LICENSE # \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE OF VEHICLE \_\_\_\_\_

PROVINCE OR STATE \_\_\_\_\_

A.M.

P.M.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

This is not a ticket, but if it were within my power, you would receive two. Because of your Bull Headed, inconsiderate, feeble attempt at parking, you have taken enough room for a 20 mule team, 2 elephants, 1 goat, and a safari of pygmies from the African interior. The reason for giving you this is so that in the future you may think of someone else, other than yourself. Besides I don't like domineering, egotistical or simple minded drivers and you probably fit into one of these categories.

I sign off wishing you an early transmission failure (on the freeway at about 4:30 p.m.). Also, may the Fleas of a thousand camels infest your armpits.

WITH MY COMPLIMENTS

---

# HISTORICAL MARKER

★★★ ★ July 1, 1975 ★★★

On this date  
the pile of junk on  
the bench below

REACHED THIS LEVEL

## FAMOUS BUSINESS CARDS DEPARTMENT

If all other attempts to operate  
this instrument should fail resort  
to the **INSTRUCTION MANUAL**  
may be found unavoidable

*Illegitimi  
non  
Carborundum*

In case of Riot  
the holder of this card  
is an  
**HONORARY NEGRO**

You are Cordially invited  
to the Theological place of  
Eternal Punishment.

*Sorry I missed  
you.*

**Juan V. Corona**  
FARM LABOR CONTRACTOR

**YUBA CITY, CALIF.**

**916: 345-2135**

*Thanks !!!  
For Parking So Close*  
**NEXT TIME LEAVE A CAN OPENER  
SO I CAN GET OUT OF MY CAR  
STUPID PEOPLE LIKE YOU SHOULD RIDE THE BUS**



**"I thought you said the field strength  
meter showed this field was strong?"**

## LIMERICKS

The limerick, they tell you  
Is a basic form of wit  
Some are pretty basic, true  
That I must admit.

We present, for your amusement or scorn as the case may be, an assortment of these fundamental rhymes. First, three classics of ancient unknown origin slightly modified by W6MUR:

He lies here molding  
His death was hard  
They shot him for folding  
An IBM card.

A WB9 from Racine  
Invented a loving machine  
Concave and convex  
It could please either sex  
And amuse itself in between.

There was a YL named Bright  
Who could travel faster than light  
She went out one day  
In a relative way  
And returned the preceding night.

The following are original W6MUR creations. Any similarity to other themes just proves that great minds run in the same channels.

A contester tested and true  
Created quite a to-do  
When he signed a rare section  
With full predilection  
So now the contesteer's through.

There was a novice named Dick  
Who began every dash with a click  
He ruined the bands  
And ignored the demands  
So they slipped Dick arsenic quick.

On phone he lets out a big burp  
On CW always a chirp  
The guy's either lazy  
Or else he's plain crazy  
In either event he's a twerp.

Zero-beat Pete  
Went down to defeat  
His demise I found uplifting;  
Still calling away  
To another that day  
The DX came back drifting.

A laser he tried to excite  
But insulation wasn't quite right  
It broke down, you see  
Thus seeming to me  
That his spark was worse than his light.

A Brazilian lady named Eva  
Worked DX from Spain to Geneva  
But she told to them all  
Stories so tall  
That nobody now will believeva.

A young lady ham named Van Dyke  
Used to whisper into her mike  
To attract all the men  
But she gave it up when  
She discovered they all were alike.

There was a young man named LaRue  
For hours he just called CQ  
When he finally signed  
His call underlined  
The stations that called him were few.

A ham who was very artistic  
Thought DXCC quite simplistic  
With the greatest finesse  
And his own printing press  
His cards looked quite realistic.

BUT: When he sent them all in  
They were a trifle too thin  
And now he's just a statistic.

Forging a card  
Is terribly hard  
I wouldn't advise you to try it  
For the League is on guard  
With record unmarred  
And you'll never get them to buy it.

A DX hog named McKay  
Jumped into every foray  
But they never abused him  
They rather excused him  
For every hog must have his day.

This guy would run super high power  
Tuning up, key down by the hour  
Till he discovered one day  
To his greatest dismay  
That all of his tubes had gone sour.

Transistors fill me full of doubt  
They make my stomach twitter  
My problem is to figure out  
Which wire is the emitter.

Eighty flat packs soldered tight  
Some black, some gray, some brown  
Before I learned it wasn't right  
They all were upside down.

Gadgets with polarity  
Bug me good and strong  
I have one peculiarity  
I always wire them wrong.

I hate with a passion,  
The latest in fashion,  
My protest is wall to wall;  
I refer to the tactic  
Almost galactic  
Of constantly shouting your call!

I detest those jobs  
Of loosening knobs  
For never on the bench  
Or in its case  
The usual place  
Is the right-sized Allen wrench.

Maddening is the instruction book  
Directing how to tune it  
That blandly tells me when I look  
“Please return the unit.”

The things that I abjure to  
In instructions I refer to  
Are fuzzy mathematics  
And incorrect schematics.

That bit of solder, tiny drop  
Splashing through the equipment top  
Soon after introduction  
Can cause complete destruction.

He said, “Call up 5 KC”  
I didn’t want to do it  
I called him right on frequency  
And boy I really blew it!

My keyboard’s getting to me  
I’m just a nervous wreck  
I think it finally threw me  
I can only hunt and peck.

Speedy McKeyboard rips away  
At speeds so fast no man can say  
Whether it’s Morse or “Asky Two”  
I wish he’d QRS, don’t you?

Speedy got a keyboard  
His face was all aglow  
For now the guys he sends to  
With ease he’ll surely snow.

Nick O. Tine bought a keyboard  
And found it quite provoking  
For it took two hands to run it  
And he had to give up smoking.

Keyboard Speedee sends so fast  
You think each message will be his last  
But the other guy comes back, you see  
And outdoes him in alacrity.

Microprocessor creations  
I find incredulous  
Instead of running our stations  
They'll soon be running us.

I wish they'd stop that infernal reading  
Of the minutes of the previous meeting  
Who cares what happened, anyhow?  
I want to know what happens **now!**

On maneuvers parliamentary  
I'm an insurrectionary  
They either should withdraw them  
Or else they should outlaw them.

Those 3-48 screws the Japanese use  
In most of their equipment  
Give me the blues for the ones I don't lose  
I find are subject to stripment.

"The things you do just blow my mind,"  
She said to one of her brothers.  
"Well," he replied  
With a twinkle inside,  
"Some minds are easier blown than others."

It's strange, I think, the contest quirk  
That without a single warning  
The hams are absent from their work  
From Fri through Monday morning.

Pity poor Abraham Stucca  
Who had a year of bad lucka  
That year in December  
They didn't remember  
To set contests outside of Hanukka.

A low-band DXer named Sam  
Asked permission to visit Aswan  
His visa denied  
He couldn't decide  
How they found out he came from Bayt Lahm.

A DXer who lives in Marin  
Is an expert in winning at Gin  
To Reno he went  
Every year during Lent  
For Lent meant nothing to him.

Some of the CBers big  
I'd like to torture with a candle  
When they look down at my mobile rig  
And ask me, "What's your handle?"

At friends who see my antenna farm  
I almost want to screech  
When, not meaning any harm  
They ask how far I reach.

To me its been a mystery  
How the traffic cops on frequency  
Think their cries do anything  
But the DX further burying.

A ham who traveled to Munich  
Tried to smuggle in junk in a tunic  
When they found the stuff there  
They stripped him down bare  
And with a knife they made him a eunuch.

Of his signal so terribly rough  
The locals had had quite enough  
So they broke in his door  
And covered the floor  
With all of his broken up stuff.

The VFO he got as a gift  
Unfortunately had a big drift  
Higher he went  
By a big increment  
Whenever the mike he would lift.

The guy who tunes up zero beat  
Just when my RST is sent  
Is one on whom I'd turn the heat  
If I just knew where he went.

A big DXer named Morty  
Had an outstanding signal on Forty  
His antenna so tall  
One evening did fall  
And now they just call him Shorty.

A Russian ham from Tashkent  
Thought some things were better unsent  
But one day to a Kraut  
He finally spoke out  
And now he's a block of cement.

There was a ham from the sticks  
Renowned for his limericks  
But evading his taxes  
He no more relaxes  
He's handling shovels and picks.

A ham by the name of McNitt  
Placed antennas without a permit  
“Screw them,” he said  
But they sued him instead  
And cut off his right to transmit.

A YL that was liberated  
Went to bed with a ham that she dated  
But with Tibet coming through  
He bid her adieu  
Which left her a trifle frustrated.

A bootlegger they titled Slim  
Used rare DX calls as a whim  
But when finally caught  
As all bootleggers ought  
They tore him up limb by limb.

A DXer from South Mozambique  
Had a well developed physique  
But beamed to the west  
In a DX contest  
He was a total wreck in a week.

A CBer who tried funny stuff  
Didn't know DX men were tough  
Till he signed a fake call  
And they bashed in his wall  
And treated him awfully rough.

On 80 she handled some traffic  
On 40 she rag chewed a lot  
On 20 she was diagraphic  
Over SSTV that she got.

On 10 the hand key she pounded  
As a lady ham she was the best  
But one day her B+ she grounded  
And now she's laid down to rest.



from *QST*, May 1960.  
By permission.

The following are selected from the DX Hoggery & Poetry Depreciation Society publications by Rod Newkirk, in the May issue of *QST* every year in his "How's DX?" column, reprinted with permission:

**1976** Pioneer Pinhead McBlots

Keeps doodling orbital plots  
It's really quite plain  
He could be more sane  
Bombing OSCAR with 900 watts.

Sunspot computers a-glowing  
The researchers look wise and knowing  
But it's clear to me  
They barely can see  
Where we've been, much less where we're going.

The current sunspot decline actually bottomed out six months ago but you won't realize it until eight years from now.

**1975** Wastebaskets Fuller rebels

At slightly delayed QSLs.  
But as every one knows,  
As far as that goes,  
His own punctuality smells.

Speech-processor Mushy von Plower  
Pushed up his average talk power.  
With background so high  
A cockroach crawled by  
And popped off the top of his tower.

**1974** Adjusting his bug on the air

Was flatfisted Fred's noisy flair  
The locals struck back  
By flooding his shack  
Thus drowning his rig in despair.

Consider poor Colin N. Collin  
Who ran far too many a gallon  
Beneath his array  
One wet windy day  
He was scalded to death by his balun.

- 1973** For code practice somewhat absurd  
Try copying Spaceless N. Slurd  
His letters ain't bad  
But the sequence is sad  
One endless discouraging word.
- Power pig Boam I. Blue  
Ran Gallons to blast his way through  
The whatchamacallit  
That emptied his wallet  
Subtracted his ham ticket, too.
- 1972** Von Querk sits there screaming his call  
It's enough to make rugged men bawl.  
When asked who he's after  
He answers with laughter,  
"Dunno, I'm just joining the brawl."
- Sneakin' and cheatin' McKreep  
Finds club buddies quite sound asleep  
Aye, there is the rub  
'Tis true that a club  
Gets well known by the creeps it will keep.
- 1971** It's Code McLidd we abhor  
His keyer we hate even more  
He sends lots and lots  
Of dashes and dots  
The spaces he left at the store.
- Careless young Saul of St. Paul  
Raised all-metal masts very tall  
One shiny stick's bolts  
Rubbed on 8000 volts  
We no longer raise Saul at all.
- 1970** Says fumblefist Spaceless O'Key  
Who sends like a kook on a spree  
"Sure, I sound like a lid  
Or a drunk in a skid  
But it's really my keyer, not me."
- Said big gun McSlaughter von Klout  
When sampling the QRP route  
"I'll knock it down lots,  
Down to 900 watts . . .  
Amazing—I'm still getting out!"

**1969** Hot-sender Bugsy McGlee  
Brought home an electronic key.  
He tried and tried  
But finally cried  
“This doggone fool thing’s sending me.”

A C.B. with mind full of static  
Thinks Uncle is undemocratic  
He daily demands  
A dozen more bands  
For his secret black box in the attic.

**1968** The lid with new keyer so flashing  
Gives Old Samuel’s code such a thrashing  
You quit with a groan  
And call him by phone  
To ask if he’s dotting or dashing.

A careless DXer named Saul  
Hopped a boat for the isle of St. Paul  
When he got there  
He was kept off the air  
Saul’s call was for Peter, not Paul.

**1967** DXpeditioner Costia A. Wodd  
Looked up from his maps with a nod.  
“This could be quite funny—  
I’ll save me some money  
By doing Nepal from Cape Cod.”

One misguided ham in Connipoint  
Whose DX cards beggar description  
Was forced by inflation  
To hock his whole station  
He “works” them, you see, by subscription.

**1966** Says Static in tones of despair,  
“Not even the atmosphere’s rare  
Since lids took to hamming  
I get fagged out jamming  
The jerks as they work on the air.”

Klod’s YF looked up from her mending  
And said to her spouse, “You’re offending!”  
He answered, “My queen,  
Is it manners you mean  
Or do you refer to my sending?”

- 1965      A murderous, vile form of hex  
On lunkheads from Extras to Techs  
Who sit by the hour  
And turn the bands sour  
With nothing but CQ DX.
- Good riddance to Ten-Amps McSpout  
Whose spinner put out quite a clout.  
Need a house warmer?  
Go grab his transformer  
We've heard that McSpout must sell out.
- 1964      A speedy-styled lid is Von Slurd;  
His sending is somewhat absurd  
Electronic keying  
That's great at V-V-ing  
Yet stumbles on every sixth word.
- East-coaster Boomboom McPlenty  
Is large on the lid lists of many.  
His CQ-DXs  
Tear up chunks of Texas  
Just to work Europe on twenty.
- 1963      When chasing that intrepid rover,  
Our Gu's on remote Juan de Nova,  
Van Klunk called so long  
With timing so wrong  
That Gus heard him sign near Europa.
- Fatfist O'Click has a flair  
For getting in everyone's hair;  
He clutters the freq  
When DX is weak  
Till you can't tell if anyone's there.
- 1962      The pasteboards of G. Whizzo Gee  
Are answered occasionally.  
His average is down  
The lowest in town  
He simply abhors GMT.
- The antics of Quibbler McTwist  
Are funny, yet wouldn't be missed.  
He cunningly fools  
With certificate rules  
And Utopian countries lists.

**1961** Sneek's phone score is utterly grand  
Few higher exist in the land  
But how does he do it?  
There's just nothing to it;  
He collars them outside the band.

That hog in the manger, MacSpray  
Enrages the rare ones each day  
They don't heed his squeaks  
So he steps on their freqs  
Till they naturally all go away.

**1960** The nastiest pest with a call  
Is U. Gottworkme O'Paul  
Whose kilowatt treads  
On rare ones' home skeds  
Till they won't work Yankees at all.

A scurrilous ham from Dundee  
Fired up on the island of Squee  
The speed of his card  
He was prone to retard  
If you failed an appropriate fee.

**1959** I bring up for scorn Clown O'Sneex  
Who ought to dry up, yet springs leaks  
While others stand by  
He clutters the sky  
With wisecracks and insults and squeaks.

Consider the crust of McSquatz  
Who knocks off the rarest of spots  
Skillfull? No, cunning—  
The reptile is running  
Entirely too many watts.

**1958** I vote them the rack, then the noose  
After copious verbal abuse  
All swine in the land  
Who sneak out of the band  
Or will stoop to some similar ruse.

I move they be quartered and drawn  
Or shot at the very next dawn,  
Those piggies who hold  
DX rarer than gold  
And yak till the signals are gone.

1957 Poor Bugtwiddle's mental defects

Are bared by his CQs DX

The rhythm? Delightful

His timing? Most frightful

He'll flip if one ever connects.

"Directional CQs are bunk!"

Claimed raffish Windjammer McClunk

Then Windy, poor ham

Yelled for help in a jam

His CQ NEW YORK raised Podunk.

1956 DXpert club member McPelf

Can scream like a hotfooted elf

At the lack of choice meat

In the club's DX sheet

But he keeps all his tips to himself.

Gab Gabber gives many a pain

His routine is darned near insane

Each new one he'll work

Not just once, the jerk,

But again and again and AGAIN!

A joiner is Joyboy O'Slot

Who joins any brawl on the spot.

He calls DX stations

Without invitations

And whether he hears them or not.



from *QST*, May 1958.  
By permission.

## POEMS

"Men will try to persuade themselves, or at least others, that they read poetry because it is a criticism of life, because it expresses the doubts and fears and thoughts and hopes of the time, because it is a substitution for religion, because it is a relief from serious work, because and because and because. As a matter of fact they (that is to say, those of them who like it generally) read it because they like it, because it communicates an experience of half-sensual, half-intellectual pleasure to them" —Tennyson

Consider the ham who's a poet  
But dares not let anyone know it  
Afraid they will think he is nutty  
If none of his poems are smutty.

But if you think it's too juvenile  
To help another with a smile  
Just ripple past these pages few  
And discover something else to do.

## NOSTALGIA

204A, 212D, and even 35T  
T55, 852, and NC100D  
Skyrider, Meissner, RME, HRO  
H&K, G&H, and Coto Radio  
Zepp and Hertz and pole-pig, the lecturing "Old Man"  
Lamb, DeSoto, Grammer, and of course Byron Goodman  
Epitaphs and tombstones, but some are still around  
Proving that you cannot—keep a good name down!

## NO CONTEST

His contest log he double spaced  
And from the call book pages  
In the blanks the calls he placed  
To boost his averages.

But he lost the test to one more deft  
He was the fellow who  
For every space the first had left  
The other guy left two.

## SIX THINGS

Three are the things I'm wiser to know  
Power input, Morse code, and how to tune slow.  
Three are the things I'd rather forget  
Line noise, key clicks, and all of my debt.

## DX

My tubes are wrecks  
And so's my shack  
I called the DX  
But he didn't come back.

## AWARD

That certificate up there  
I stole it fair and square.

## MISNOMER

A misnomer is the ham verb "work"  
For it's been my experience  
That this is what most hams will shirk  
Except when forced by indigence.

## ONE OF THESE DAYS

I know I have to clean my shack  
One of these days.  
And rearrange things in the rack  
One of these days.  
And sort out all the magazines  
One of these days.  
And wash the insects off the screens  
One of these days.  
The antenna lead needs fixing too  
One of these days.  
And club memberships I must renew  
One of these days.  
  
The list is long but my will to use it  
Is less than my desire to lose it  
One of these days.

## SPACE STATION - OR A STAR IS BORN, OR THE YASME VII

BY R. W. JOHNSON,\* W6MUR

The yen for expeditioning is in all DXers' veins  
That's the basis for this story, and all that it contains.  
It began one early morning, before the sun was high  
Sputnik two was blazing its way across the sky.  
A member of the Honor Roll, scientific too  
Rose in fading darkness, the satellite to view.  
He braved the icy frost, glasses in his hand  
To study this achievement, discussed on every band.  
His receiver in the shack was tuned to frequency  
Tape recorded to preserve it for all posterity.  
And as he watched and listened, the great idea it came  
The dream he'd always had, his biggest chance for fame.  
He would operate a *mobile*, whirling 'round the earth  
The risk involved, he knew, it surely would be worth.  
And so the big DX man began planning his campaign  
He advertised his plans from California to Spain.  
Think of it, they said, a trip way out to space!  
Never was there anywhere such rare DX to chase!  
And so the contributions were asked for from the ranks  
Replies to each one received, there was a note of thanks.  
Even DX editors added money to the fund  
And the poorest of DX clubs eventually was dunned.  
Gradually accumulated was enough to do the job  
A mobile rig to outer space to satisfy the mob!

Now all details we cannot tell, security they state  
But the rocket finally readied, there had arrived the date.  
The radio was tested, ejection means as well  
For the man inside the satellite, from it to expel.  
Antennas, all hydraulic; multi-beams for every band  
Power from the sun and ejection on command.  
Four stages all in all, two million pounds of thrust  
We could not at all afford to have this flight a bust!  
The rumors flew with fervor, 'twas the talk of all the hams  
Some pleaded to be first on sked, and sent in telegrams  
One sent in half a bill, with a paragraph  
Saying "When I get your QSL, you'll get the other half!"  
And so it went for months as preparations for the flight  
Brought X-day ever nearer, when the rocket would ignite.  
And then all was in readiness, our DXer climbed inside.  
The word went out on all the bands, all was ready for the ride!

The countdown started, broadcast, on fourteen oh five oh  
As all the world sat listening beside their radio.  
Nine, eight, seven, six; the seconds count began  
As strapped inside, with anxious fist, sat our DX man.

\*9372 Hill View Rd., Anaheim, Calif.

Previously read at the California DX clubs meeting and  
also at the ARRL National Convention in Washington.

And then the time had come, there was a *thunderous roar*  
The rocket rose slowly first, and then began to soar  
Fifteen, sixteen, seventeen thousand miles per hour  
Into space it went with all its mighty power.  
Then as the time was reached when the orbit could begin  
All went quiet, rocket off, and rare DX within!

Antennas all unfolded, sun batteries all charged  
Inflating gadgets functioned, and the capsule was enlarged  
The DX man reached out and put his hand upon the key  
To send the first CQ from out of gravity.  
*Fifty countries* he became before the call was through  
From Pakistan to Zanzibar, Maldives to Peru  
And when he signed to listen, the din you've *never heard*  
Like that one was all calling Satellite the Third!

From Maine to California, Finland to Japan  
One hundred thousand strong they were, all calling that  
one man!

And he could hear them all, of course, because the ionosphere  
Was far down there below him, and couldn't interfere.  
Well naturally his problem was to somehow find a way  
To tell one from the other, so the debt he could repay  
For after all these were the ones who contributed their  
dough

To make this expedition for the good of radio.  
With enough experience, you can always separate  
The signals from each other, and QSO's accumulate.  
Eighty hours later, about sixty times around,  
He had twenty thousand contacts with stations still earth-bound.

Another month went by, and he had worked them all  
From two hundred eighty countries, on just that single call!  
And lest you think they will not count, because he's mobile  
way up there

The League agreed that after all, there wasn't any air  
And if this be so, you couldn't say with any certainty  
That he was airborne and wouldn't count, toward DXCC.

More happiness you'll never see among the DX men  
Because Honor Rolls there would be never more again.  
And so the time came nearer, when food and air ran low  
When our DXer thought of parting from his little moon  
aglow.

He made ready for ejection and strapped himself in well,  
Pressed the button firmly, and down toward earth he fell.  
Soon after that he landed, gently and secure  
Back to earth at last, the most famous amateur.

But here is where we must relate the *saddest* tale of all  
And the reason why this DX man will never dare a call  
For now he's ostracized, his mind is in a fog  
Up there in the satellite, he forgot and left his log!

## DELIBERATIONS ON FORTY MOST WANTED COUNTRIES ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS SOUTH YEMEN

I can think of nothing finer  
 Than a QSO with China,  
 I would jump and shout "Hooray!"  
 If I contacted Bouvet  
 In sleep I oftentimes murmur  
 "O Lord, please give me Burma,"  
 And I also rave and ramble  
 Of the need to chalk up Campbell,  
 And just thinking of Albania  
 Drives me zanier and zanier.  
 To hear me whining for Mt. Athos  
 Is nothing less than pathos.

I rant and rave and bawl  
 For St. Peter & St. Paul.  
 And I'd pat my dog and lick him  
 To catch someone from Sikkim  
 I would give a thousand lira  
 For a contact with Palmyra.  
 I check daily how the band is  
 In hopes of Juan Fernandez  
 Though I'd change my style and manner  
 Just to QSO Serrana  
 The success would be a dry one—  
 I'd still be needing Taiwan.

When I'm old and gray and creaky  
 I'll still need Manihiki.  
 Though I'd stoop to be a forger  
 Of a card from old South Georgia  
 That would still not be *fini*  
 Since I'd still need one from Guinea  
 And the whole thing's so much phooey  
 With no two-way yak with Niue.

I tell you, brother flatly  
 I would give my wife for Spratly  
 And would mortify my flesh  
 For a sniff of Bangladesh.  
 I would wear a surgeon's bandage  
 To help me work South Sandwich  
 And though that would bring me smiles  
 I'd still need Red Sea's isles.

I wake at night so scared  
 That I've missed someone from Hea  
 And my heart is full of venom  
 For creeps who don't need Blenheim  
 And my nextdoor neighbor, Charlie,  
 Who has just confirmed Somali,  
 And that other pinhead, Frank—  
 How did *he* get Geyser Bank?

But one day I'll end my credo  
 With a ferbent, Joyful "Amen!"  
 I'll work Revilla Gigedo  
 And guess what, that's right,  
 South Yemen.  
 So on and on I strive  
 Toward my frantic final goal:  
 By the time I'm ninety-five  
 I'll have made the Honor Roll.

—V55MC  
(Now deceased)

From *QST*, August 1975, p. 91.  
By permission.

## CHICKEN LITTLE

K6GAC

My husband maintained it was easy  
To get on the air as a ham  
He prodded and urged and cajoled me  
Till I weakened and took the exam.  
A resistor was four microfarads  
I said at the top of page three  
The power was one thousand ohms  
Seemed like the right answer to me.  
In code I mixed B up with D  
And confused every F for an L  
As I looked at the text I had copied  
I knew that those men couldn't spell.  
In short the result was disastrous  
They had nailed me right to the wall  
I knew I could simply not ever  
Manage to get my own call.

By my husband was quite sympathetic  
He kissed me and said it's all right  
A lot of them fail it the first time  
And he promised to coach me each night.  
So for months I labored and studied  
How to tell coulombs from watts  
And henries from farads and ohms  
Like I'd tell glasses from pots.  
The code I learned backwards and forwards  
(Backwards I found I liked best)  
Till my husband announced I was ready  
To once again tackle the test.  
This time the story was different  
Circuits I sketched by the score  
Not long after that our nice postman  
Brought K6GAC to my door.

But all this was just the beginning  
The start of my great new career  
DX was to be my main interest  
As I listened and strained with each ear.  
At first it was perfectly simple  
I called them and right back they came  
I told them I was a young lady  
And at once they wanted my name.  
They asked if I needed assistance  
And offered to air mail their card  
Why this fuss over DX?  
Working it wasn't so hard!  
One hundred, one hundred fifty  
The DXCC on my wall  
A nice little row of red stickers  
On each one typed neatly my call.  
DX, I thought, was for infants  
No struggle, no challenge, no strain  
How quickly my illusion degraded  
Into a head full of pain.

For as I got near to two hundred  
The magical letters "YL"  
Sent to rare ones the same as to others  
Seemed to vanish way down in the pile.  
No longer did they wait while I chatted  
To give out my name and address  
They snapped like a steel wire antenna  
When subjected to ultimate stress.  
They pushed and they shoved and they trampled  
Courtesy meant not a thing  
Like swarms of bees that were anxious  
To attack a weak drone with their sting.  
Bargain sale fights I've seen often  
Ladies gone completely berserk  
But nothing compares with a pile-up  
With a thousand DX men at work!  
To them a lady means nothing  
And they know me full well I allude  
They're courteous enough at the meetings  
But on pile-ups they're ugly and rude!  
Like wolves with their fangs out and dripping  
With the blood of the quarry they feast  
They claw and they scratch and they snarl  
As would a frothing and half-rabid beast.

My husband said, "Why do you take it?  
"You've got stickers enough on your wall"  
And with that he set me to thinking  
It's not important at all.  
Our hobby is really rewarding  
In so many and various ways  
Why should I stay up nights listening  
And catch up on sleep in the days?  
So I set different goals of achievement  
Things I knew only I could do right  
As for banging away in a pile-up  
They can have all they want of that fight!  
I've agreed to publish their paper  
Which reports on their exploits superb  
On the air I avoid all the rare ones  
In short I'm a noun, not a verb.

### DX AND TIME

With intensive straining  
To hear the signal waning  
I think I now am gaining  
A bit of what he sent.  
  
But it takes imagination  
In such a situation  
To achieve communication  
And discover what he meant.

But at the risk of eulogizing  
And without apologizing  
I think I'm realizing  
That I don't know where he went.

Now in the noise he's falling  
And everybody's calling  
I find myself recalling  
The amount of time I spent.

It really is befitting  
That we should be all admitting  
The time we spend transmitting  
Is for sure improvident.

And so I'm recommending  
As through our lives we're wending  
That *time* we try befriending  
It's what we can't invent.

## NEW COUNTRY

Study the charts, look under the sea  
Get out the fathometer gages  
Apply to the League and the FCC  
Turn nautical atlas pages.

Pack up the gear when a "country" you find  
And do not forget the winch  
Keep logs up to date and don't fall behind  
Working DX is a cinch.

Work them all and work them well  
Keep working and press your luck  
And tell them when they QSL  
To be sure and include the buck.

## POSSESSIONS

Save those precious parts and things  
Haunt every surplus store  
You'll even find old piston rings  
Make coil clamps superior.

That old transmitter upon the shelf  
Has a nifty VFO  
It's even useful by itself  
It served you well, you know.

Empty cans and jars and boxes  
Come in handy too  
All those models of past-used voxes  
And that little curlecue.

But there comes a time when these possessions  
You have managed to accrue  
Become exactly like obsessions  
And end up owning you.

## MEMORIAL TO A SILENT KEY

You'd be so kind to those behind  
Who sort things that outlive you  
If you'd tax your mind and try to find  
A way to take stuff with you.

The Pharaohs had the problem too  
And solved it rather neatly  
With pyramids for residue  
Sealed off quite completely.

So pass the problem on, I ask  
To future generations  
And eliminate the awful task  
Of sort and segregation.

Donate it now or raise some cash  
Distinguish wants and needs  
Don't keep around what's really trash  
Like a garden full of weeds.

## ANTENNA TESTS

There's a guy in California  
With nothing else to do  
Than put up big antennas  
Then test "No. 1" and "No. 2".

For hours this goes on and on  
On the DX frequencies  
And sometimes the count is higher  
The antennas go by threes.

"This is Number 1," he'll say  
"And this is Number 2"  
"Notice any difference?"  
*I* surely never do.

But sometimes I hope to hear this guy  
The day will happen when  
He'll blow up when he switches  
To antenna Number Ten.

## METRIC SYSTEM

The metric shift is coming  
A day I know I'll dread  
They'll insist on our succumbing  
To use a metric thread.

No longer will I be able  
To say six thirty two  
I'll have to change the label  
To some bastard kind of screw.

A 3.5-.6, you see  
Is the closest you can get  
Threads per inch, 42.3  
That's why I am upset.

What to do with all that stock  
I've gathered o'er the years  
Gives me nothing but a shock  
And reduces me to tears.

So take your metric system  
And stuff it you know where  
To ask me to assist 'em  
Is more than I can bear.

## ODE TO A SLIDE RULE

"Slip-Sticks" was the name we called them  
We carried them with care  
Our only means of calculating  
We used them everywhere.

They even made some big ones too  
Three or four feet long  
The circulars we found the best  
They were seldom wrong.

All kinds there were; we used them all  
Pickwicks, K&Es  
Never any calculation  
We couldn't solve with these.

But like running boards and silver coins  
These handy computators  
Are replaced but not forgotten  
By electronic calculators.

## CLUBS AND PUBS

The friendliest clubs  
Meet in the pubs  
Their meetings I always enjoy.  
Midst bubbles and brews  
Without any dues  
Nobody there will annoy.

The clubs that I hate  
Are those that create  
Projects for all to perform.  
For one that will do them  
There are more that will boo them  
I find this so very unwarm.

To meet in the bar  
Is better by far  
Than anyplace else I can think.  
For problem solving  
And idea evolving  
Is much easier over a drink.

So try it and see  
The camaraderie  
That develops O'er a table of booze.  
For fun-filled hours  
Try a few whiskey sours  
In a dimly lit rendezvous.

## MURPHY'S LEAVE

The plate cap goes with a ball of fire,  
The balun shorts right at the wire.  
The electronic key starts making dashes,  
By itself as the final flashes.  
The bandswitch has a bad connection,  
The antenna line shows high reflection.  
The beam rotator doesn't turn,  
The screws are loose on the ground return.  
Everything, it seems, is wrong,  
Even the antenna's cut too long.  
I think I've found that this location,  
Is where Murphy goes on his vacation.

## LOST ART

Something new in DX relations  
That shouldn't trouble you  
Is asking phone DX stations  
"Please listen for CW."

It used to be the other way  
The practice we'd condone  
On CW we would say,  
"Please listen for my phone."

But now they get all up tight  
And jam the frequency  
When I ask the guy if please he might  
Work me on telegraphy.

But what I find to be dismaying  
In truth, an irony  
Are the DXers that reply by saying  
"Sorry, old man, no key."



## FAMOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

*Also subject to chastisement  
Is the familiar advertisement.*

The first two are classics, reprinted with permission from ARRL and Aero Electronics. The others are printed here for the first time in the MAD magazine tradition.



*Announcing the formation of*

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To BORROW a slogan from our favorite radio magazine, we are "devoted entirely to amateur radio." We will not sell to anyone who is not a licensed radio amateur, except at list prices. As the authorized dealer for every manufacturer in the world, we stock only the finest equipment in every price range.

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SELOR. If you don't have the time to assemble the entire kit yourself, one of our engineers will be glad to do it for you, just for the pleasure it gives him. No tipping, please.

When you have made your selection, one of our constant attendants will be pleased to introduce you to our CREDIT CHAIRMAN, who is also president of the local chapter of the Optimist's Club. He will be happy to arrange time payments like you have never seen before.

In the basement the OLD TIMER is in charge of YE PROVERBIAL JUNKE BOX, where the discriminating buyer may purchase individual parts for experimentation and replacement. We suggest you telephone first (be our guest — reverse the charges) to insure that we have your component in stock, to avoid disappointment on your part and embarrassment on ours. Sorry, but all JUNKE BOX sales are strictly cash.

No visit would be complete without a stroll through the PRINT SHOPPE. Here you will find exciting authentic reproductions of the rarest QSL cards in the world, many at fairly reasonable prices. Included in the purchase price will be your call and signal report, filled in by our PATIENT PENMAN in an exact duplicate of the original handwriting and ink. These QSL cards are rapidly becoming very popular for decorative and other purposes; they make excellent gifts for "the ham who has everything, almost."

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73,

*Larsen E. Rapp  
President*

*Larsen E. Enterprises, Inc., Kippling-on-the-Charles, Mass.*

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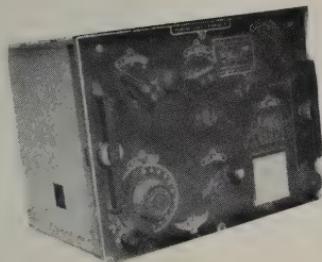
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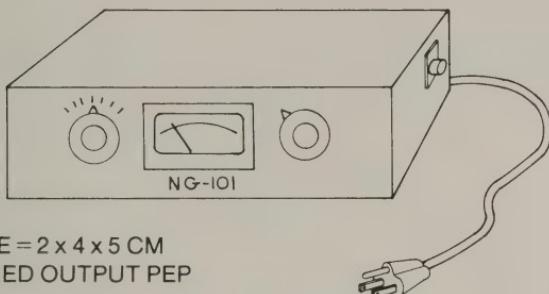
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**FOR SALE** one slightly used Temper 20-20. Used only one week, before the fire. Contact Underwriters' Salvage Co., Los Angeles, CA.

**FOR SALE** 16-element 40-meter beam, 240-ft boom. Requires only 1½ acres for turning radius and guy wires. Gain 14 dBd. With rotator, 20 hp gear-reduction motor, 440 vac three phase reversible. Box HRH 73.

QSLs, any call, handwriting or signature. Send sample filled out to a friend, and your check for \$5.00 and we will send you an absolutely undetectable duplicate, with your own call filled in. Achieve the Honor Roll for \$1600 and save all that time! Write to Rube Turki, San Leandro, CA.

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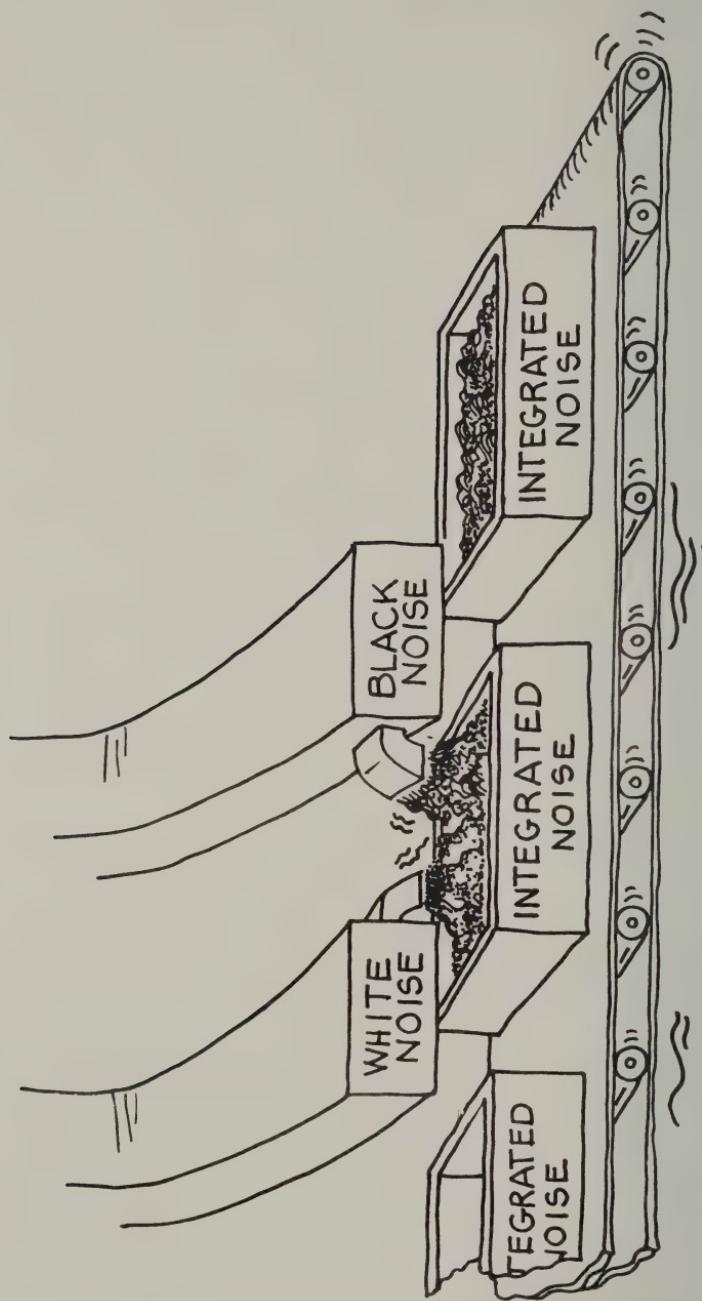
**ROTATOR**, heavy duty prop pitch, modified. Guaranteed to go in one direction. Very fine for bi-directional array, if you use inductive coupling to beam. Cheap. W6CF.

**WANTED** any information about my missing husband. Frequents 14025 kHz from DX spots. When last heard from was heading for ZA to operate. Phone collect to 212-555-1212 and ask for Operator 12.

**CUSTOM COMPUTER**. Designed to answer calls, check for dupes, enter in log, make out QSL, and give consecutive serial numbers or programmed data, all automatically. Will search and pounce when QSO rate drops on CQs, change bands when a band goes dead. Monitors spectrum analyzer for band with greatest activity, seeks out new multipliers automatically. Contester's dream. Enjoy yourself fishing or boating on contest weekends, come out a sure winner. Prove to your neighbors it isn't you causing TVI. Contact Harley, WA6ISX for details.

**WANTED**, ideas for more dialog-type articles. The more quotes, the better. No prose, please! Contact W6ISQ.

**RETIREMENT HOME** for aging DXers needs club station. Any good 50 kw rig and 500-ft tower with beam stack will do. Tax deductible. Phone only, no keys, please! Contact NCDXC, P.O. Box 608, Menlo Park, CA 94025.



Integrated Circuit Mixer

## JOKES AND ONE LINERS

The award for the longest CQ on record goes to the W7RM operator who fell asleep with the CQ DX memory keyer left on in the repeat position.

\* \* \*

How to Win DX Contests: Cheat.

\* \* \*

And then there was the only guy in Zone 23 who insisted on working one station in each W district in rotation, but got stuck when the band wasn't open for W5. He's still in there calling CQ W5.

\* \* \*

And then there's the veteran DXer in San Carlos who thought his antenna must be shorted out because he spent hours in the DX contest calling stations that never came back. Much later he discovered he was working split rather than transceive, and he was calling 100 kHz off frequency. And think of all the time that was lost by others trying to find the stations he was calling!

\* \* \*

Then there was K2RT, who got his SS wheel on backwards and spent the contest sending TR8KSS, and wondering why that Gabon station pile-up kept following him around.

\* \* \*

And how about the W6 whose rotator was stuck on Europe and he discovered his side lobes were stronger than the main one? He worked more JAs that year than anyone else.

\* \* \*

One contesteer had quite a set-up. His antenna relay buzzed on receive, so when he switched over to listen the standard procedure was to reach over and hit the relay with his hand. After a few contests his hand got so bruised he couldn't use it any more, so he rigged up a hammer on a hinge, with a string and pulley down to his foot switch. When he let up on the footswitch the hammer came down and banged the relay. That's what we call real ham ingenuity.

\* \* \*

Alex was a phone man with r-f in the shack. One day he got excited in a pile-up and talked too close to the mike, and burned his lips. At the next club meeting they teased him with, "What's the matter, Alex, did you burn your lips on the exhaust pipe trying to blow up the bus?" But he was up to them. "No," he replied evenly, "I was trying to light a cigarette with a soldering iron when the cigarette broke." "And the hot iron burned your lips?", they asked. "No, the iron wasn't plugged in." "Well, what burned you, then?" "It was the other end of the cigarette. Turned out that end was already lit."

And there was the novice who thought sun spots were freckles. He always tuned up his rig until the plate meter read maximum. He thought he had the world's quietest location until he discovered the receiver was on STANDBY. In fact, he used to brag about his antenna until one day a friend discovered he had mixed up the feedlines with his TV antenna. That was when he learned why he kept getting POLICE STORY on 40 meters.

\* \* \*

One ham had a lot of trouble with mice making nests in his transmitter. He decided to get a cat, and he named the cat CQ. But then he had to give up phone because every time he called CQ the cat jumped into the transmitter. He's just hoping now the cat won't learn the code.

\* \* \*

The ham was giving instructions to his tower climber. "Now remember," he said, "that tower is 250 feet high. If you slip and fall, try to look to the north as you come down. The view is better that way."

\* \* \*

I told the DX Club they were all rude, stupid lids and lousy signals and worse operating ethics, and incurable DX hogs. And do you know what they did? They made me an honorary member!

\* \* \*

The top man on the DX Honor Roll, a mathematician, was asked by a newsman his secret for success. "I would say that if success is X, then X equals Y plus Z all times M, where Y is listening and Z is equipment and location," he replied.

"And what is M?" asked the reporter.

"That," replied the DXer with a laugh, "is keeping your mouth shut."

\* \* \*

Then there was the rather slow-witted phone ham who asked for the call suffix "TLC" so he could use the phonetics "Two Letter Call."

\* \* \*

The proliferation of two-letter calls is approaching fad proportions as we go to press. It makes the League happy because they think there are more hams getting licensed, but most of the guys are keeping their old calls as well. And the QSL card and badge makers are all for it. It should cut QRM, though—one less letter to sign.

\* \* \*

And one jerk when told he had parasitics in his transmitter bought a flea collar for it.

\* \* \*

One ham spent so many night-time hours on his radio that his wife got very unhappy. One night he came to bed at his usual late hour and noticed the lumps in the bed on the side where his wife usually slept. They didn't look much like hers so he rolled back the covers and found his mobile equipment she had taken out of the car. On the top was a note that said, "Try sleeping with these for a while. I've gone out for some excitement."

Club president: "Do you know how to run a club newspaper?"

Club member: "No, sir."

President: "Well, I'll try you. You talk like you've had experience."

\* \* \*

The day that ZA2RPS showed up from Albania there was an epidemic of sickness among the working members of every DX club in the country. One supervisor who had been particularly hard hit asked one of his ham employees the reason. "Well, sir" replied the DXer, "it's a new four-hour virus they've labeled the DX strain."

"Did you get a shot for it?" asked the supervisor.

"Yes, I got one good shot and that worked out. Now I feel fine."

\* \* \*

The new XYL of a DX ham was asked what she thought of married life. "Oh, there's not much difference," she replied. "I used to wait up half the night for Jim to get up and go home, and now I wait up half the night for him to come to bed."

\* \* \*

And then there was the mobile operator who looked down to check his frequency and ended up driving his wife up a wall.

\* \* \*

A ham returned home one evening to find his junior up with a bandage on his hand.

"Hello, son!" he exclaimed. "Cut your hand?"

"No, Dad," was the reply. "I picked up a pretty little fly and one end wasn't insulated."

\* \* \*

A newly graduated engineer thought he'd impress the old-timer with his knowledge. "That antenna of yours is all wrong," he told the old-timer. "I'd be surprised if you worked anything on 20 with it." "So would I," replied the old-timer. "It's a 10-meter beam."

\* \* \*

"You've heard a lot worse operators than I am on the air, haven't you?"

The other ham didn't reply.

"I said, you've heard a lot worse operators than I am on the air, haven't you?"

"I heard you the first time. I was trying to think."

\* \* \*

Radio teacher: "Why is it important not to lose your head in a pile-up?"

Student: "Because that would leave no place to put the earphones."

\* \* \*

"I've been calling you for an hour," said the DXer when he raised the rare one.

"Well, I came back to you as soon as you signed," was the reply.

After the wedding, the minister blessed the bride and told her, "You've married a very smart radio man. You're at the end of all your troubles."

A few years later, the young wife met the minister and threatened to scratch his eyes out.

"What's the matter?" the minister asked in astonishment.

"When you married me, you told me I was at the end of all my troubles!" the young girl cried.

The minister smiled, "Lady, I just didn't tell you which end!"

\* \* \*

To enjoy operating your station in a contest, put on loose clothing, take off rings and wrist watches to aid circulation, hold the rules of the contest in one hand, and tell the guest operator to go ahead and operate.

\* \* \*

A good many ham dynamos are short-circuited in a few years. At least their power output and emissions are reduced.

\* \* \*

Then there was the ham who called his priest for another exorcism because all of his equipment had been repossessed. But what he didn't know was that it was the church that held the mortgage. "An exorcism will cost you just \$2673.50," said the priest.

"But that's just what I owe on the equipment."

"The devil, you say!"

\* \* \*

The most original phoney DX call ever used was 4X4JU/SU.

\* \* \*

Then there was the SP ham heard calling CQ USA on 14185 kHz and listening transceive.

\* \* \*

The CBer looked at the DXer's tower and asked, "Why do you have such a high tower?"

The DXer replied, solemnly, "With an antenna that far away from ground, a high tower is absolutely necessary."

\* \* \*

The ham just returned from taking the Extra Class exam for the third time. "How'd you make out?" he was asked.

"Much better, thanks," he replied, "I'm now top on the list of those that failed."

\* \* \*

Then there was the Polish immigrant ham who enrolled in a college agriculture course hoping to learn about antenna farming. He planted a TV antenna as his class project and is still waiting for it to grow into a 20-meter beam so he can talk back home. But he'll be disappointed, because he planted it upside down. Any fool knows they won't grow that way!

Wife: "You're sure doing a bad job of straightening out that tower."

Ham: "Well, you declared this morning that it needed straightening badly."

\* \* \*

The ham brought his cheap 2-meter portable into the repair shop to see what could be done for it. "The mistake I made, of course," he admitted, "was in dropping this portable on the pavement."

"Well, I don't suppose you could help that," the store man replied. "The mistake you made was picking it up."

\* \* \*

The ham club pest fell into a swimming pool at the deep end and couldn't swim. Another club member rescued him, and the pest asked how he could reward him. "The best way," said the club member, "is to say nothing about it. If the other hams knew I'd pulled you out, they'd throw me in."

\* \* \*

After the Hicksville ham finished putting up his 250-ft tower the townspeople referred to it as Hicksville's biggest erection.

\* \* \*

"I think you're absolutely crazy," she said, after listening to the ham explain about antennas.

"Why do you say that?"

"Well, you said salt water made a good ground."

\* \* \*

Then there was the ham who won an award as the best salesman of the year. He had convinced his neighbors that his new tower and beam was a lightning protector for the whole neighborhood.

\* \* \*

XYL: "Hello, is this the Missing Persons Bureau? My husband has disappeared. Can you help me find him?"

Bureau Chief: "Certainly, madam. Will you describe him?"

XYL: "Well, he's short, fat, bald, runs after women, is practically never sober, and he operates a ham station and stays up all night and interferes with our TV set, and has wires all over the place, and . . . oh, the heck with him. Just forget it!"

\* \* \*

Then there's the HZ sheik who kept his harem three miles from where he lived. Every day he sent his radioman to get him a girl. The sheik lived to be 87, but the radioman died when he was only 30. The moral of this story is, "It's not the women that kill you, but the running after them."

\* \* \*

One ham in an exclusive San Marino, California neighborhood put up a motor-driven crank-up, figuring to raise it only late at night, in the dark of the moon. But one moonlit night he got eager and took a chance and the neighbors saw it growing out of the shrubbery. That's why you never hear from San Marino any more.

A ham and his wife lived on the top floor so he could be closer to his antennas. He lost his job and couldn't pay the rent, and finally they were evicted. On the way down the stairs, his wife carried the baby under one arm and a load of blankets under the other. He had his transceiver and 2-meter portable. The wife stopped and began to laugh. The ham said, "Mary, this is no laughing matter." She answered, "Yes it is; this is the first time we've gone out together in nine years."

\* \* \*

The ham was visiting his girl friend and kept looking at his watch.  
"Am I boring you? Why do you keep looking at your watch?" she asked.  
"No, I have a schedule in 15 minutes," he replied.  
"Is that the way it's going to be after we're married?" she asked.  
"Of course not. I'll be right there with you with the earphones on all the time."  
"Suppose I want to talk to you?"  
"Just go out and use the mobile rig in the car!"

\* \* \*

A ham and his wife slept in twin beds. He kept a receiver between the beds with earphones so he could check the bands for DX in the middle of the night. One night she felt lonely and came over to his bed, but tripped over the earphone cord. "Oh, darling, I'm so sorry," he said kindly. "Did you hurt yourself? Here, let me help you get untangled."

About a half hour later after they had made love, the wife went to return to her own bed and again tripped over the earphone cord. "Why in hell don't you watch where you're going?" he said.

\* \* \*

First DXer: "Why did you tell me there was plenty of DXing when there aren't two DX stations to work?"

Second DXer: "Well, the less DX there is, the more DXing to get them, isn't there?"

\* \* \*

The ham had just completed wiring up a new radio station for his boss. His boss wanted to test the equipment. "Say something into the mike and I'll go out and listen on the mobile."

"Hello, test. I haven't had a raise in pay in 1, 2, 3, 4 years. How does that sound, boss?"

\* \* \*

"Did you know that I had taken up writing for ham radio magazines as a career?"

"No. Sold anything yet?"

"Yes; my linear, my transceiver, my beam and my tower."

\* \* \*

First ham: "Old Megawatt is going to retire from ham radio."

Second ham: "I've heard him say that before."

First ham: "I know, but this time the FCC said it."

\* \* \*

A ham came home late and gave his wife the good news:

"Darling, I've been elected president of the club."

She was delighted. "Honestly?" she said.

He laughed with embarrassment.

"Now, why bring that up?"

Scientists say that only one man in a hundred has a perfect voice. The rest of them, however, insist on shouting their calls on 14220 kHz when the DX is talking.

\* \* \*

Then there was the CW man who went entirely to SSB so he could lead a hand to mouth existence.

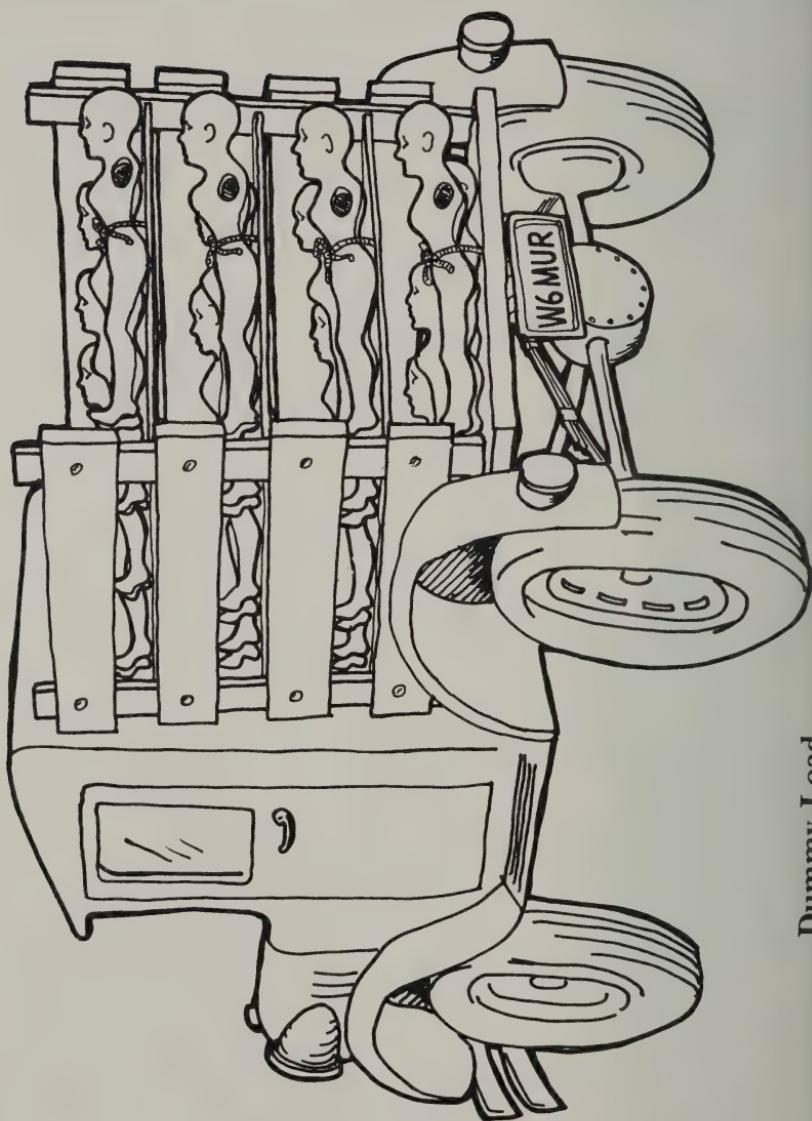
\* \* \*

The CW DXer always checked the propagation graphs before ever calling a DX station. This is putting the chart before the Morse.

\* \* \*



**Checking a tube**



Dummy Load

## GREAT INVENTIONS OF THE PAST 20 YEARS

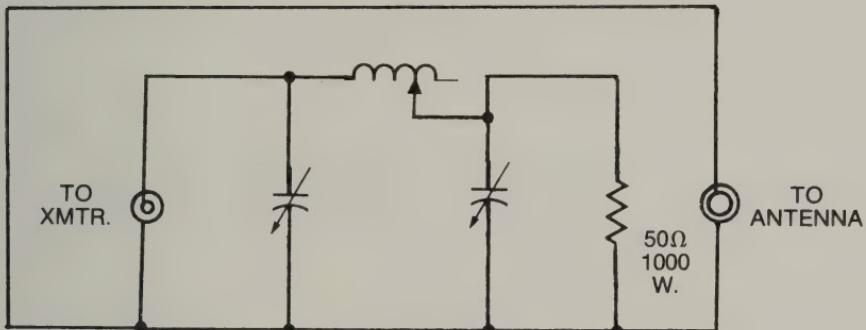
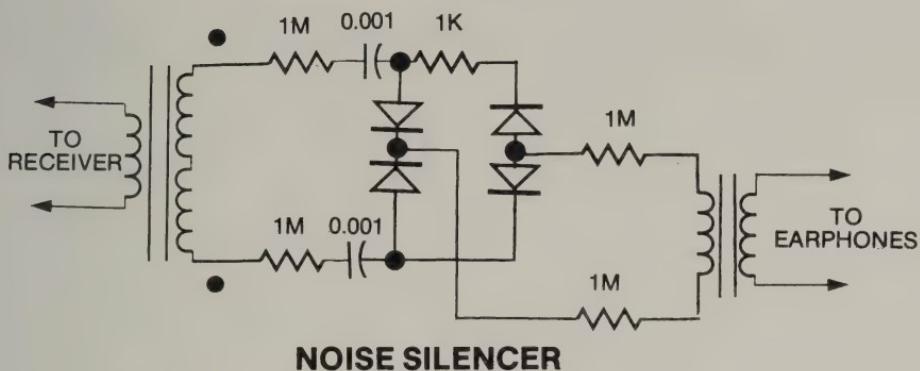
Each year, in the April issue, *QST* publishes the major breakthrough in ham radio for the year. Herewith are the abstracts.

Better than study, better than school  
Sometimes a bit muddy, *QST's* April Fool

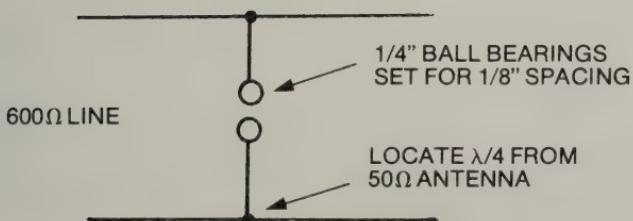
- 1976 WH0P (he claims) uses a harmonica reed in an aluminum diaphragm for an earphone to achieve "CW Super-Selectivity."
- 1975 KL0OGE (he claims) achieves the impossible with his "lossless radiator" by putting the final on the roof and using a loop as the tank coil.
- 1974 VO1DER presents his original paper on suppressed sideband telephony, in which he modulates the carrier without introducing sidebands!
- 1973 WA2FCC comes up with a brilliant idea for a water trough around his antenna to act as a reflector.
- 1972 W8FMG presents the RASER (Radio Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation). In this stimulating article the author discussed how to place a home grown ruby rod inside a Yagi to increase the gain.
- 1971 W6MUR reveals previously classified government work on polydimensional CW, eliminating QRM by a multi-coordinate tuning system. (This article has been reprinted with permission, on page 59).
- 1970 W5KQH produces a brilliant solution to erecting a tower in a trailer park. Dig a hole as deep as the tower and use a 50-gallon drum as a piston, pushing the tower up with water pressure.
- 1969 W4TZB proudly presents a hidden mobile antenna made by cutting the windshield pillar and driving the opening as a loop, producing an impedance match with resistors.
- 1968 W0JIH saves the day for puzzled hams by presenting charts, graphs and nomograms enabling the difficult conversion between Hertz and cycles per second.
- 1967 W1MRW invents a fine solution to TVI: Pulse the transmitter ON only during retrace intervals when the TV tubes are blanked out! He even discovers a way to use a 6C4 as a gas tube to short out 3000 volts by leaving the heater disconnected.
- 1966 W8HXC has the ultimate solution for the tower-neighbor problem: Paint the tower (and be sure to paint the beam and coax too) with invisible paint. This has a color which is outside the visible portion of the spectrum for human eyes. Birds' eyes see it fine.
- 1965 Buried in the correspondence section on Page 55, K1LGB presents his Enclosed Carrier Envelope system, including a circuit from which the envelope can be made by folding it along circuit lines. The message is then enclosed and mailed.

- 1964 WA2FQZ describes his r-f power increaser, resulting from the addition of about 0.4 to 0.6 feet of a special size wire in the transmission line, to compress the electrons, like an accelerator.
- 1963 W8BSQ comes up with a new spectrum conservation device using extremely low NBFM deviation and frequency multiplying the signal in the receiver, which he says explains all of the apparently unmodulated carriers on 75 meters.
- 1962 W8YLU shows details of his "power sucker" antenna system, in which by reducing the radiation resistance to zero he can clear the channel he is using, of all QRM.
- 1961 WA2FQZ describes a half-wave antenna made of the center conductor from RG-144U coax, and fed with the same coax, except that the main feedline of 150 ft. must run straight down from the antenna.
- 1960 Larsen E. Enterprises presents their full-page advertisement, reproduced elsewhere with permission. (See Ads and Classifieds Chapter).
- 1959 K6QHZ in the correspondence section proposes use of tape recorders to trade bandwidth for time in phone transmissions in his letter on "Slow-Speed Phone".
- 1958 W9LRA produces the best method yet for saving bandwidth. He removes one sideband with conventional filtering, but leaves the carrier. The other sideband is then removed by phasing. Finally, the carrier is interrupted at periodic intervals in an agreed-upon way to signal the other operator. The FCC says it's legal.
- 1957 W1OU presents his compact all-band antenna, applying the well-known principles of ferrites to shorten the length, but then revealing his really unique idea, that of using the image principle in reverse. The antenna is simply buried where the image antenna ordinarily would be, the deeper the better.
- 1956 W1OU, noting that Hartley oscillators chirped up and Colpitts oscillators chirped down, combined them by connecting the capacitor tap to the inductance tap to produce the Harpitts or Coltley, which was stable, resulting in his "Radical Approach to VFO Design." This was one of the last of a long series of published inventions by Larsen E. Rapp in *QST* April issues for many years prior to 1956. Since these pre-date the ages of many hams these days, they will be omitted, but are recommended for nostalgic reading.

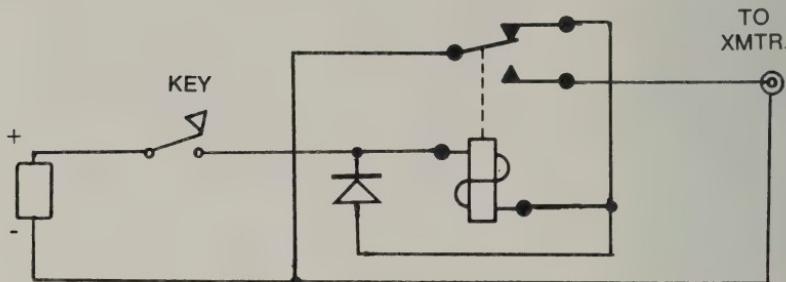
## FAMOUS CIRCUITS



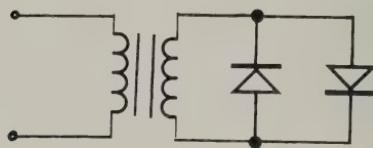
**ANTENNA MATCHER**  
GUARANTEED VSWR 1.00 WHEN PROPERLY TUNED.



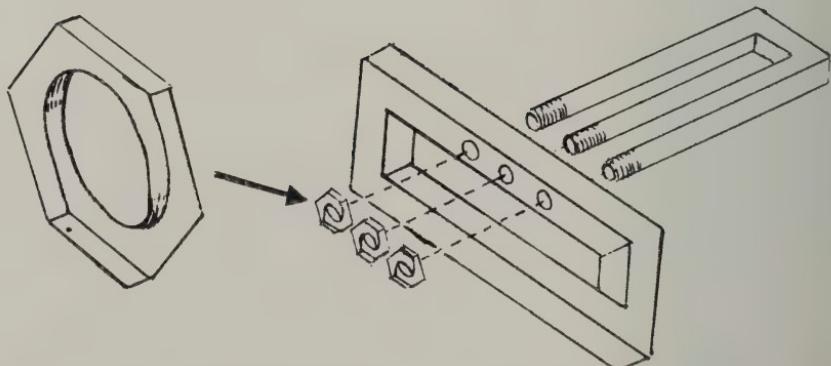
**POWER OUTPUT MONITOR**



**HIGH SPEED ELECTRONIC KEYER**



**POWER TRANSFORMER TESTER**  
(If diodes go first, transformer is OK)



Trihedral chimerical mounting bracket for three-element beams. Nuts will not loosen in the wind, and require no lock washers.

# Polydimensional CW

The Ultimate Solution to CW QRM

BY R. W. JOHNSON,\* W6MUR

**W**HEN YOU think about the matter for a while, you realize that identification of a signal has a lot in common with identifying anything else — say, a person. In such case, the identification becomes more complete the more facts you know: hair (length, location, and color), eyes, height, weight, build, teeth, scars, ears, nose, sex (these days somewhat indeterminate), and so on — through maybe a couple of dozen characteristics and distinguishing features. Then, of course, there are the positive things like fingerprints and voiceprints.

In identifying a signal, you are also aided by its distinguishing characteristics. This fact, of course, has been known since amateur radio first started. There was something distinctive about the rotary spark gap, or the MOPA, or resonant filters, or three-phase unfiltered dc. But we've tended to ignore that fact all these years, concentrating instead on "cleaning up" our signals to the point where now the key clicks, tone — and even the electronic-key fist — all sound almost exactly the same for thousands of hams. It's as though we were all dressed alike, drove the same model cars at the same speed in the same way, lived in identical row-houses, worked the same hours, and ate the same food. Uniformity, regimentation, mass obedience, sheer monotony. Homoousianism, that's what we have!

### The Problem

In today's cw pile-ups you can hardly sort out the DX. He never signs his call, just yours (once) and the "579K" with his electronic key and T9X signal. It's hours, sometimes, before you know whom you've worked, and even then it could have been some wag imposter doing the same thing just to clear out the pile.

But now all this can change. A solution to the QRM problem has been buried for about 20 years in the classified literature, and only recently came to light due to an oversight in the original classification permitting downgrading.<sup>1</sup> Now the story can be told, and it is important that it be told because it will open up a vast new spectrum for amateur radio. We won't have to worry any more about international conferences, or intruding commercials, or even man-made noise.

### The Solution

This little-known technique is called *polydimensional cw* — the government named it — and

\* 9372 Hill View Rd., Anaheim, CA 92804.

<sup>1</sup>See Central Security Agency Report GUS-14020-TSEC (Title Classified), April 1, 1950. (Downgraded at 20-year intervals.)

it involves the simultaneous radiation of more than one signal on a given frequency band. These are *not* spurious signals; they are deliberate and intentional, so FCC Rule 97.73 doesn't apply. Also, Rule 97.67 that specifies "1 kilowatt, to the plate circuit of the final amplifier stage" doesn't say anything about the plate circuit of *another* final amplifier stage, nor does it mention the collector circuit if we happen to find a good high-power rf transistor lying around. So it's all perfectly legal for ham use.

In its most elementary form, the polydimensional cw system consists of but two transmitters, each radiating the same power into its own antenna, each independently variable in frequency within a given band, and both keyed simultaneously. The keying characteristics of each transmitter are, for this elementary system, identical. If you have an extra class license, one frequency might be chosen as 14005, and the other 14040.

The receiving setup in the polydimensional system is the tricky part. It is not an ordinary receiver, but is actually two receivers in the same box. You can have two tuning dials, one for frequency A and one for frequency B. The two receivers are gated together so that a signal must be *simultaneously* present in both outputs in order to be heard. Fig. 1 shows a block diagram, in which the autocorrelator operates as an AND gate that permits signal transmission to the output circuits only when the signal is simultaneously present on both frequencies.

You can see that, automatically, we now have a two-dimensional band, in which the location of a signal is determined by its position on a plane, one dimension being the frequency of signal A and the other dimension being the frequency of signal B, as shown in Fig. 2. Instead of only 100 places for a signal to be received in a given chunk of spectrum, now there are  $100 \times 100$  or 10,000 places for that signal to be received! Obviously, QRM on only one signal will not affect our gated output. It would have to be simultaneously present dot for dot, dash for dash, on the other signal as well. Mathematically, it can be shown that the probability of this

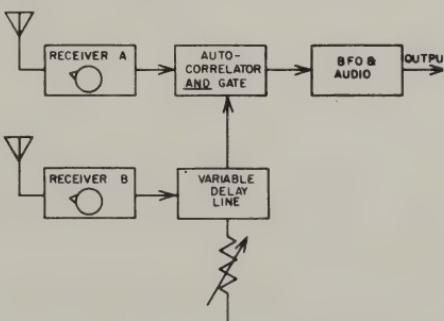


Fig. 1 — Block Diagram of the simple two-dimensional receiver.

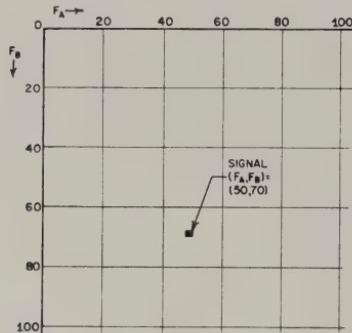


Fig. 2 — Coordinate plane of two-dimensional band.

occurring is infinitesimal. Space does not permit presenting this analysis, but the reader is referred to the aforementioned government report.

### *The Third and Fourth Dimensions*

The above describes only a simple, two-dimensional system. We can now add other dimensions, and our position plane grows into a cube, and then into the fourth and higher dimensions. For example, we can deliberately add a controlled chirp to the signal, and design the receiver so that it will respond to a specified chirp only. A chirp may be described by the rate of frequency shift in the first 10 milliseconds of a dot or dash, the amount of the frequency shift, and the direction (up or down). Transmitted signal A can be set to chirp up, and signal B set for down-chirp. Then only the receiver that has frequency A set for up-chirp and B set for down-chirp, and also tunes exactly the two frequencies, will respond.

We can also add some other distinguishing characteristics. Signal A can be pure T9X, and signal B can have a slight modulation, say 5% at some frequency between 200 and 400 Hz. The receiver design can include provisions for recognizing only those signals with a prescribed modulation frequency and percentage. The possibilities are endless. Think of all the brand-new knobs we can have to tweak, and all the varied models of receivers that can now be introduced on the market! This might be exactly what is needed to revitalize the electronic industry now suffering from defense cut backs. However, another advantage of polydimensional cw is that, like compatible color TV, an ordinary receiver can be used to receive either one of the radiated signals. So this new system won't obsolete any present equipment.

It was stated earlier that the polydimensional system also reduces the effect of man-made noise. This is accomplished because, as is well known, the most troublesome man-made noise is periodic in character. That is, it is usually in sync with the

60-Hz supply line, and sounds the same throughout the entire band. Shown in Fig. 1 is a phasing box, which is actually a variable delay line applied to one receiver channel. This introduces a very slight delay equal to the duration of a noise spike, so that the autocorrelator will not respond. The only effect on the desired signal is a slight reduction in the apparent dot length or dash length as heard in the output.

The government has kept this development secret for years, but it has now leaked out. The details of actual receiver designs are still classified, however, so it is up to our amateur ingenuity to come up with suitable designs for receivers. There will be ample rewards, for here at last is the ultimate solution to cw QRM. What was once a mere "frequency" now becomes a coordinate in a polydimensional system. See you on (7001, UP CHIRP, 7010, DOWN CHIRP, 360/4%) some evening!

QST

## COMPLEMENTARY PROPAGATION

### R. W. Johnson, W6MUR

One of the most fascinating, and in fact revolutionary developments of the space age was demonstrated<sup>1</sup> during the U.S. Bicentennial Year and is being reported here in English for the first time. I refer to complementary propagation, which will open up a whole new field, anti-radio. To understand this development, we need first to show some examples in other technological areas.

Complementary terms occur widely in Nature. For every North Pole there is a South Pole. There are both ones and zeros in binary systems. There are positives and negatives in mathematics and in nuclear particles. There are males and females in biological systems. There are holes and electrons in semiconductors. And there have been recent discoveries of anti-matter and "black holes" in the Universe with gravitational fields so strong that even light is captured.

With electromagnetic propagation, as it turns out, there is also complementary propagation. A study of Maxwell's equations in rectangular coordinates<sup>2</sup> will show that if the signs of the last two terms in each of the nine equations are reversed, a whole new field theory results which in effect, is similar to the ordinary field except for negative dielectric constants, loss factors, magnetic permeability and permittivity. The velocity of propagation remains the same but bending and refraction effects are reversed.

A rigorous analysis of the modified Maxwell equations is, of course, beyond the scope of this article, but the practical effects are startling. An ordinary receiver is able to respond to complementary waves, but in a negative way. The response is somewhat greater if certain changes are made to the antenna system, particularly above 25 MHz, as we will see later on. Complementary waves can be thought of as analogous to anti-matter, except that they are anti-energy. They are in effect sinks, which will absorb all ordinary radiation on a particular frequency. Thus an ordinary receiver tuned to any given frequency will, when energized by complementary waves of that frequency, go completely quiet. Signals, key clicks, power line noise, and even thermal noise is literally "sucked out" of the receiver.

You can see the tremendous potential of complementary waves. In a DX contest, for example, the complementary wave will cause complete quieting of the receiver in each pile-up. One need only to transmit the mirror image—or complement—of what he would normally send (that is, the spaces between dots, dashes, and letters and words would become the transmitted complementary signals) and pile-up would furnish the beat note. One is in effect then using the composite power of all the stations in the pile to his advantage, so that the DX has no choice but to hear the complementary signal on CW.

As another example, one can tune to one of the foreign broadcast stations that populate our lower frequency amateur bands, and with complementary signals actually key the carrier of the broadcast station insofar as all receivers are concerned.

The system works equally well when the receiver is overloaded by, say, power-line noise. The complementary signal blots out the noise on the frequency to which the receiver is tuned, so when sending complementary code, the signal heard is simply keyed noise and comes through perfectly clear, much as a spark transmitter would.

Complementary propagation has enormous potential in the CB bands. In fact, one of the best frequencies for propagation turns out to be about 27 MHz. The reason for this effect is not yet fully understood, but it seems to be due to a third-order term in the solution of the modified Maxwell equations causing a dip to occur in the (negative) attenuation vs. frequency curve. Remembering that the dielectric constant, attenuation, etc., are all negative with complementary waves so that their intensity actually increases with distance instead of the opposite, this dip in the vicinity of 27 MHz creates an ultra-powerful result at all ordinary receivers within at least a 3000-mile radius of even an ordinary complementary transmitter. Thus by frequency modulating the complementary transmitter, or using several transmitters, each transmitting on an assigned CB channel, it is possible to blank out the entire CB band throughout the United States. This is indeed a far-reaching discovery!

Because of the negative propagation coefficients, complementary waves also behave

differently than ordinary waves upon encountering the ionosphere. When the MUF is low and solar flux is also low, complementary waves travel their longest distances. When ordinary waves pass out into space or are absorbed by the ionosphere instead of reflecting or refracting back to earth, complementary waves do just the opposite. Thus complementary waves offer enormous potential for communications during periods of either low solar activity or magnetic storms resulting from too much solar activity.

Now the generation and transmitting of complementary waves is not particularly difficult. It can be done with ordinary equipment available to the amateur. One must remember at all times that the complements are to be used. For example, negative rather than positive voltages are required wherever positive voltages would be normally used, and vice versa. When using alternating currents, it is important to introduce another current exactly  $180^\circ$  out of phase. Thus tube heaters must be excited by two transformers in parallel, with the secondaries connected  $180^\circ$  out of phase from each other. Antennas must be made of tubing rather than wire, because complementary waves radiate from the space inside a conductor instead of from the outside surface of it. Coaxial cable must be turned inside out and connectors reversed. The ground, instead of being wet and a good conductor, must be a poor conductor. Thus the best locations for complementary signal propagation are the deserts, in areas devoid of salt, with low water tables.

Special receivers designed to receive only complementary waves can also be produced by following the simple principles given earlier for transmitters. The amateur should be cautioned, however, that such receivers will not respond to ordinary waves, and communications will be limited between those stations which are fully equipped, both transmit and receive, with complementary equipment.

Unfortunately, the system is still too new to have interested the manufacturers as yet, but it should be only a matter of time before equipment is available that will operate in both the normal and complementary modes at the flick of a switch. There are some complications of design of dual equipment, since dials must rotate in opposite directions, calibrations are reversed, and "off" is "up" (FFO-NO switches) in American

equipment. One of the major problems yet to be solved is how to modulate and de-modulate complementary waves except by FM. So far the system is limited to CW, and so it will be something enjoyed by relatively few amateurs within the present population. Considering that for some time commercial equipment will not be available, this still further reduces the population that will be able to take advantage of it. Thus the few amateurs who still like to pioneer and build their own equipment AND use CW will enjoy this new mode of propagation for many years before QRM becomes a problem.

Finally, the FCC has not yet issued a ruling on the matter. It is believed that there is a Notice of Proposed Rule Making under consideration, but as of this time there seems to be no rules covering complementary propagation. Considering the usual alacrity with which the FCC acts, it will probably be about 1986 before complementary radiation is brought under bureaucratic control. Therefore amateurs are free to experiment and to set up their own independent communications systems based on complementary propagation.

<sup>1</sup>See Zahrzhevsky, Vladimir L., "Report of Complementary Propagation Experiments." University of Ryazan Report No. UA0-UPOL-7025, August, 1976. (USSR) (Title translated).

<sup>2</sup>See Kerr, Donald M., "Propagation of Short Radio Waves," Radiation Laboratory Series, Vol. 13, pp 51—53.

## MISCELLANY

The things that seem extraneous  
Are classed as miscellaneous.

But most you'll find spontaneous  
Some even subcutaneous.

## FAMOUS FORTUNE COOKIES

Classic: Help! I'm a prisoner in a Chinese cookie factory.

Contemporary:

Your beam is stuck on JA.

Your transmitter plate meter reads 50% low.

Your receiver is switched to standby.

You will be blessed with a power leak.

You are cordially invited to the theological place of eternal punishment.

Your neighbor just cut your guy wires.

Your tower has buckled in the center.

A windstorm will strip gears in your rotator.

Your memory keyer is programmed with the wrong call.

Your winning contest log is lost in the mails.

You lost the SS by 150 points; one dupe was missed.

That YL ham at the next table wants a date.

Your convention prize is a 2N404.

Your digital frequency display reads backwards.

You put in a high-pass filter in your speech processor.

Your VSWR is low because you left the dummy load on.

They'll draw your number for the grand prize while you're in the mens room.

Your wife went out with a boy friend while you were busy in the DX contest.

Your neighbor just stuck a pin through your coax.

Your phone signal is as hairy as your face.

Your bathroom mirror is actually one-way glass into the next apartment.

Congratulations! You have just won an 852.

Men with dirty minds think of nothing but behinds.

This Chinese dinner will make you incurably thirsty.

Your tower has just been repossessed.

## HAM RADIO DICTIONARY DEPARTMENT

Dipole	Very sick tadpole
Ohm	Where a British ham lives
Volts	What a politician needs to get elected
Inductor	Drafting a woman for the Army
Resistor	What a man should do if attacked by a female
Antenna	Uncle Joe's wife
Photomultiplier	Person who makes double exposures
Henry	A guy who's wound up
Microhenry	A little guy who's wound up
Dummy Load	A truck full of mannequins
LED	A lid with an extra class license
Yagi Boom	Explosion in JA land
Log Periodic	Sawmill feed
Noise Figure	Comment about Miss America
Integrated Circuit	One who integrates white noise with black noise to achieve equality
Mixer	Freight railroad
Load line	New French island prefix
FET	A Halloween prank
Gate bias	An open path to Europe
NOR gate	KL7 in December
Solid State	What you use to enter a Bunny Club
Electronic Key	Beauty aid
Transformer Oil	Device for lighting radioactive cigarettes
Gamma Match	Letter to the editor
Feedback	Soil tester
Field-Strength Indicator	Narcotics agent
Source follower	New type of weather control
Driven Element	Identified flying object
OSCAR	A disease of the optic nerve characterized by wiggly lines, caused by watching too many daytime soap operas.
TVI	Accoutrements for raising invertebrates
Worm gear	Organizational unit in Arson Division, Organized Crime, Inc.
Matching Section	

**FRACTURED GERMAN DEPARTMENT**  
**DAS GLOSSARY MITTEN DER TERMEN**  
**USEN BY TALKENOUTEN SENDEROUTERS**

Electronics	Das tubenkrap grupe
SSB	Das shoutenlouden donalducken grupe
AM	Das heterdynen shoutenlouden grupe
CW	Das dashendotsen whistlenklicken
VFO	Das swishenchirpen swoop
Key	Das gerfingerpoken dashendotsen senderouter
Transmitter	Das senderouter chirpensplatten
Receiver	Das boosten forcenmoten mixen laudenboomer
Amplifier	Das boosten forcenmoten
Meter	Das indicaten fur das forcenmoten
Voltage	Das forcenmoten
Current	Der amperen
Wire	Das konducten der amperen
Operator	Das sittentunen das boosten forcenmoten mixen laudenboomer
Ham	Das talkenouten senderouter
Antenna	Das konducten der amperen fur wigglelinnen propengaten
Radio wave	Das wigglelinnen propengaten
Tower	Das neyberfussin erectenstik
Signal	Das forcenmoten das konducten der amperen
Reflector	Das bounzbacken
Digital	Das wunenzero thinkenduen
TV Set	Das boobertuben fur interferun mitt
Speech Processor	Das vocalboosten splattenouten

**ACHTUNG!**

Das machine is nicht fur gerfingerpoken und mittengraben. Ist easy schnappen der springenwerk, blowenfusen und poppencorken mit spittzensparken. Ist nicht fur gewerken by das dummkopfen. Das rubbernechen sightseeren keepen hands in das pockets. Relaxen und watchen das blinkenlights.

**ACHTUNG!**

Fur usen das vocalboosten splattenouten keepen der gainknoben to placen wer das sittentunen das boosten forcenmoten mixen launderboomers evesdroppe ist nicht disturben mitt fuzzenhairen.

**ACHTUNG!**

Fur usen das senderouter chirpensplatten mitt dashendotsen whistlenklicken, ist nicht fur mistaken und rottenspacin. Keepen das speedenknoben to placen wer das sittentunen das boosten forcenmoten mixen laudenboomer tunen ist understanden das senden.

## HAM RADIO PEOPLE SYMBOLS

Everyone is of course familiar with the circuit symbols used in ham radio and electronics, but not many know about the people symbols, which evolve from those for man ♂ and woman ♀. We present herewith a fascinating collection from the private works of Dr. Maxwell, famous mathematician and ham psychologist.



Big Antenna  
Man (Phallic  
Symbol)



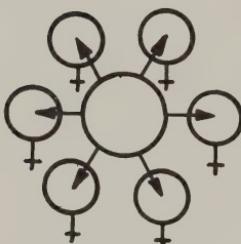
Big Antenna Man  
after Windstorm



Ham who has  
lost interest



Ham who collects  
fees for cards



Big ham Stud at  
YLRL Convention



OSCAR ham who works  
Himself



Non-Conformist



High-Power ham  
after a new one



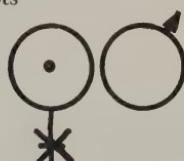
Ham trying to  
find the right  
beam direction



Inactive ham (rebuilding)



Propagation forecaster  
infected with sun  
spots



Wrong time in 28-day  
solar cycle



Big pile-up of DXers



Contester too busy  
to go to mens room

## HAM RADIO HOROSCOPE

**AQUARIUS Jan. 20—Feb. 18** You have an inventive mind and are inclined to be progressive. You lie a great deal, like giving a report 40 over 9 when the other station is barely S3. You forge cards for DXCC. People think you are stupid, but that's because you come across that way.

**PISCES Feb. 19—Mar. 20** You are imaginative and can find DX stations at the bottom of any pile-up. Your talent is particularly adept when following OSCAR stations around as they shift frequency. You do get confused now and then and work your own station.

**ARIES Mar. 21—Apr. 19** You are quick tempered, impatient, and tend to respond with bitter sarcasm when people's operating practices offend you. But when you do the same thing, you can't take the criticism.

**TAURUS Apr. 20—May 20** You are practical and persistent, dogmatic. Most people think you are stubborn. You keep on calling DX stations long after they have gone QRT. But this sometimes works and they hear you when they come on again the next day.

**GEMINI May 21—June 20** You are a quick and intelligent thinker, and people often admire you for your sense of timing in a contest. You are bisexual, which means you tail-end a lot.

**CANCER June 21—July 22** You procrastinate a lot, which is one reason why your shack is so messy and your VFO drifts. But you are sympathetic and understanding, and people always ask you to help them with the messy jobs, like changing gears in their rotators. You do help them, too, when you get around to it.

**LEO July 23—Aug. 22** You think you're a born leader. Others think you are pushy. You are arrogant and a bully. That's why you win contests.

**VIRGO Aug. 23—Sept. 22** You are logical and neat, and you pick nits. You have quite a collection of nits, in fact, that you have picked. But some of them have dried up. You tend to be unemotional and you fall asleep at the key a lot, and wake up sending your dreams. You really ought to see a psychiatrist.

**LIBRA Sept. 23—Oct. 22** You are artistic and have problems facing reality. You won't admit that the station you called came back to someone else, so you go back and give him a report, and chatter on while he works three or four other guys.

**SCORPIO Oct. 23—Nov. 21** You are shrewd and unethical. You're the type of guy that starts rumors to throw the rest off the track, like getting everyone to listen on 14220 when the DX is really on 14250. Having two transmitters on at the same time is a disgusting ruse.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22—Dec. 21** You are optimistic and enthusiastic, but not about ham radio. If you're an XYL, you are tolerant of ham radio. If you're an OM, you refuse to go for your extra-class exam because you hate to fail.

**CAPRICORN Dec. 22—Jan. 19** You don't like to take risks, and you tend to be lazy. If you can, you get others to work DX for you so you can watch TV. You always have guest operators in contests. You should avoid standing still too long or you may take root and have to remain there forever.

## IMMUTABLE LAWS

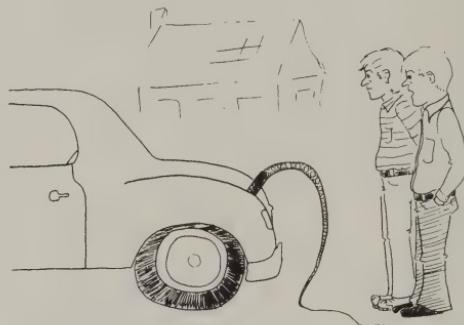
- Newington's Law: The first myth of League management is that it exists.
- Baldwin's Law: The organization of any ham radio bureaucracy is like a septic tank—the really big chunks always rise to the top.
- FCC Motto: Any solution to a problem changes the problem.
- FCC Policy: Any sufficiently promising technology must be regulated or it will succeed.
- Vic's Law: Bringing in more contest operators late in the contest decreases the score.
- Murphy's Fourth Law: If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will cause the most damage will be the one to go wrong.
- Murphy's Law of Thermodynamics: Things get worse under pressure.
- Henry's Motto: It's morally wrong to allow hams and CBers to keep their money.
- John's Collateral Corollary: In order to get a radio equipment loan, you must first prove you don't need it.
- Frank's Axiom: When the DX comes back to someone else, call CQ on the frequency.
- Berkeley's Law: Under the most rigorously controlled conditions of line voltage, temperature, humidity and other variables, the rig will do as it damn well pleases.
- Cann's Axiom: When all else fails, read the instruction book.
- Finagle's Rules:
1. To study a subject best, understand it thoroughly before you start.
  2. Always keep a record of data. It indicates you've been working.
  3. Always draw your curves, then plot the readings.
  4. In case of doubt, make it sound convincing.
  5. Experiments should be reproducible. They should all fail in the same way.
  6. Do not believe in miracles. Rely on them.
- Franklin's Rule: Blessed are they expecting nothing, for they shall not be disappointed.
- Gummidge's Law: The degree of radio expertise is inversely proportional to the number of statements understood by fellow amateurs.
- Jone's Law: The ham who can smile when things go wrong has thought of someone he can blame it on.

## P SIGNALS

So many things we want to say  
For which Q signals don't exist  
That in this section we convey  
P signals to assist.

- PRA If you have a name, give it to me. I missed it.  
PRB You have bad key clicks. Please fix 'em or else.  
PRC You have hair all over the band. Turn down the gain.  
PRD Where in Hell do you think you're going?  
PRE Better check your line voltage.  
PRF Check your r-f output with a pencil.  
PRG Where is the DX listening, anyhow?  
PRH Do you know you're drifting all over the map?  
PRI Boy, that's some ripple; better add some filter to that thing.  
PRJ Oh, Hell, try it again. They won't let you alone.  
PRK I hear you fine when those other jerks stop sending.  
PRL Now this is a sked. Shaddup and let me keep it. Get lost.  
PRM OK, pile, spread out. I'll start 5 kHz up and work down.  
PRN This Goddam noise here is killing my ears.  
PRO Can't you please squeeze out a little more signal for me?  
PRP If I were you, I'd cut back to 1 kw. The RI's on his way over.  
PRQ Oh, hurry up and get it over with. You're taking forever.  
PRS For God's sake, slow that damn thing down!  
PRT If you don't quit sending, I'll put you on my blacklist.  
PRU There's a lot I could say but I don't think you'd understand me.  
PRV I'm as ready as I'll ever be.  
PRW Tell that jerk DX station to listen for me next.  
PRX Wait your turn, stupid!  
PRY When the Hell is my turn, anyway?  
PRZ Go ahead, Pile, try it again and I'll try to sort you out.  
  
PSA Man, I'm really flying today!  
PSB You've got so much echo I can't copy you. Try it long path.  
PSC You've got to be kidding; 50 watts never sounded like that!  
PSD That keyboard is sending you, sounds like.  
PSF You just go flush yourself, you lid!  
PSG Lay it on me, you guys. I'll work you two at a time.  
PSH I'm working guys on the high side. The rest of you, call low.  
PSI I think I've psyched out your call, finally.  
PSJ How much does your QSL card cost me?  
PSK Can you work full break-in?  
PSL Send your card first; if I like it, I'll send mine.  
PSM I'm not going to repeat this; get it the first time or else.  
PSN I called you on 160 last night; why didn't you turn your receiver  
on?

- 
- PSO I'm only interested in quickies. Stop the chatter.  
 PSP Please tell these other lids to stay off my frequency.  
 PSQ You'd better go see a psychiatrist, sonny!  
 PSR Only a veterinary could treat you for what ails you.  
 PSS QRX; I have to visit the sandbox.  
 PST I'm addressing you guys in this pile; listen good.  
 PSU I'm transceive. Call me on frequency and hope for the best.  
 PSV Just send your call once and don't bother with mine.  
 PSW This is my frequency and I was here first. Get lost, Bud!  
 PSX Listen for my buddy zero beat with me N-O-W.  
 PSY Listen for my buddy up 2 kHz.
- PTT Can you run a phone patch for me?  
 PTR It's time to stop talking.



**"MAYBE THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF ANTENNA THEY MEANT."**

from *Apco Bulletin*, November 1976.



**"BREAK ONE-THREE FOR THE POLE-HOLDER"**

from *Apco Bulletin*, Oct. 1976.



#### A NOTORIOUS SUGGESTION

CUT AND KEEP! At long last we have them in sufficient quantity for all personnel to have his own. Please cut yours out and keep it. Guard it with your life. Never lose it, and don't let anyone take it away from you.

These tuits have been hard to come by, especially round ones, but now, by special arrangement, you can have yours. We are glad because the demands have been great, and now that they are in hand, most of our problems about reports and about really getting things accomplished at the various offices will be solved.

I look for our efficiency at every office to double, now that everyone has his personal round tuit. For, you see, so many of you have said, "Sir, I will get started on this just as soon as I can get a round tuit."

Others have said, "I know I should already have completed it, but I just can't get a round tuit."

Other comments are, "We've been so busy, and there's so terribly much to do, that we just haven't gotten a round tuit."

## **DXPEDITION RULES FOR WINNING W6 POPULARITY CONTESTS**

1. Always pick the time for the DXpedition as one where sunspot activity is at a minimum.
2. Remember that small transceivers are easier to set up and operate. Keep the power well below 100 watts, and do not use a separate VFO.
3. Trap verticals are much easier to set up and use, and simplify band changing. Do not use beams and go easy on the radials.
4. Select a site with a hill, rock or cliff next to it in the direction of W6, preferably both long and short paths.
5. Do not use the announced frequencies. W6s listen there.
6. Use SSB in preference to CW, but when on CW always send at least 40 wpm, and be sure the transmitter has a drift and a chirp so you will go through the narrow W6 receiver passband.
7. Announce working up 5 but then always answer on frequency because that will be clearer.
8. Keep the total operation as short as possible, and try to change bands as soon as any band opens for W6.
9. On SSB always work transceive, never split. Work by districts if necessary but use odd numbers only. W2, 4, 6, 8 and 0 do not need the country, so skip over them.
10. If you set up a list operation, always pick a midwife that W6s can't hear at the same time they might hear you. This insures total confusion.
11. If you should happen to work a W6, be sure and log his call incorrectly.
12. These simple rules will guarantee you a feature spot on the Fresno DX Convention main program and win you YASME and NCDX Foundation support for your future efforts.

—W6MUR

## TELETYPE ART



from *QST*, May 1957.  
By permission.



—Reprinted from August 1955 *QST*

from *QST*, May 1969.  
by permission.

## PROSE

On the following pages will be found some of the most illuminating articles and short theses to have been compiled anywhere.

Lest the irreverence here and there offend you, remember it's all in fun!

### HOW TO PASS EXTRA-CLASS CODE EXAMS

**Chollie Bigbottom**  
**Federal Confusion Commission**

The extra-class amateur license, in addition to being a status symbol permitting you to act superior to those who don't have it, and get you preferential seating at your club dinner meetings, enables you to mix in with the radioteletypes, foreign broadcast, point-to-point, low frequency radar, and various unidentified hashafistis in the lower 25 kHz of most amateur bands. Because fewer than six percent of all amateurs have obtained this pinnacle of success, this article is to point out some valuable techniques that can be used to pass the code portion of this examination.

The examination consists, of course, of two parts, the code test and the theory test, which we in the Commission call **Element 4B**. The code test gives the most difficulty because some 60% of those who fail the examination fail the code test first. We do not have statistics to show how this relates to the fact that the code test is given first.

To prepare yourself for the code test, the first thing to remember is to keep calm. If you take pills, this is the time to take them. Tranquilizers in particular can be a big help in keeping your nerves calm.

You will find that a tiny hearing aid transducer concealed in one ear and connected to a subminiature pocket tape recorder will be immensely valuable in the receiving portion of the test, and can also be used in the theory portion as will be described in a future article. The hearing aid microphone enables you to record the code coming through your regular earphones which the examiner will hand you. Then, since the examiner gives you time to correct your copy before turning it in, you can rewind and replay the recorder at half speed, this time using the hearing aid earphone. You will of course have to copy a pitch of tone that is also half of that which you recorded, but the usual pitch is much too high anyway for most people, so that should be beneficial. If you can't copy the 10 wpm from a 2:1 speed reduction, then you can change the gearing to slow it down still more.

The main thing you should guard against when using this simple method is that you don't get the speed switch positions mixed up. Some examinees that have tried this technique have been dismayed to find they had the recorder in the wrong position and the replay was actually at twice the recorded speed and twice the pitch; so they still managed to fail the test.

The sending portion of the code test is most easily passed with the aid of an accomplice and some additional miniature equipment. When the text sheet is given to you, you make a fast substitution for another text which you have carried in your pocket, and slip the first text to your accomplice. To do this without attracting the attention of the examiner it is helpful to create some sort of a diversion, like having someone shout "fire", or letting a hyped-up cat loose in the room to chase imaginary mice (actually, most FCC offices are in such antiquated buildings that there are natural mice usually present).

When the text switch is complete, your accomplice slips outside to the men's room (or women's room, as the case may be) and types the text on a keyboard code device connected to a tiny transmitter, as a restricted radiation device under Part 15 of the FCC rules. Now here is where your originality and inventiveness can come into play. You actually have two alternatives here. For either one, the signal from the rest room is picked up and detected by the subminiature pocket receiver and decoder which you have concealed upon you. With the output of this unit, you either have tiny electrodes connected to the proper muscles on your sending arm so that by means of electric shock your arm and hand can be made to jerk involuntarily and so operate the key; or else the decoded output in the form of dry contact closures is wired with tiny, skin-colored wires down your arm to tiny electrodes glued to your fingers. You bridge the key contacts with your fingers as you pretend to work the key, so that the contact closures actually do the work of keying the examiner's oscillator.

The main problems that have developed with this method have been (1) an accidental overdose to the cat; (2) interference to the radio link between the rest room and your receiver; and (3) too high a voltage on the shocking electrodes. In case (1) one poor chap suffered seeing the cat simply vomit all over the examiner and then collapse on the floor. In case (2) the examiner couldn't figure out why the examinee was sending portions of press wireless news text in between the real words. In case (3) the examinee found the shock sufficiently painful that he cried out with every dash, although the dots didn't bother him too much.

These methods are regarded as far superior to the more traditional approach of hiring an accomplice with forged identification papers to take the examination for you. We at the Commission now have a computer terminal linking NCIC, and with the new fingerprint identification systems it is easy to make positive identification of each applicant.

## WHAT IS A DX PHONE MAN?

U.S. hams come in assorted shapes, colors and sizes. Somewhere between the novice and the inventive innovator lies the DX phone man. His phonetic language can be heard every day, any time, mostly on "Sugar Sugar Baker" or "Sierra Sierra Bravo." Charlie William is, for him, an archaic thing of the past; at first by choice, but now by necessity since he's forgotten the code. He is now conversant with subjects such as sideband and carrier suppression, speech compression, PEP, product detectors and linear amplifiers, even if he doesn't understand them.

He is most often found in the "Dog Xray" pile-ups, in the midst of the Whiskeys and the Kilowatts, repeating his call like a broken record, to someone he never identifies even after a QSO, and often to someone he has never heard. Or he may be found prattling to a neighbor with full power on, about how he has worked 370 countries but just hasn't sent in the cards. Often he can be found just "calling to say hello" to a rare DX station, especially if there are others calling who haven't already worked the DX.

He dislikes Charlie William, electronic keys, QRM, breakers, slow-scan TV, the kilowatt power limit, power leaks, newcomers, DX that doesn't hear him, those the DX works first, RF burns, carbon microphones, hum, rigs that need tuning, distortion, shocks, broad-band audio (except his own), PM, AM, NBFM, RTTY, split frequency operation, daylight saving time, extra class licenses, beams of fewer than five elements, antennas less than 70 feet high, zoning regulations, building codes, deed restrictions, power less than 2 KW PEP, code tests, and extra-class license examinations. Anathema to him are TVI, SWLs, CBers, neutralization, ATV, heterodynes, and the FCC.

A DX phone man is an appliance operator, a CW man tired or gone sour. When not working he is retired or on vacation, never unemployed. He has the imagination of a five-year old, the hallucinations of an LSD addict: He can hear his call and a report from the bottomless depths of any pile-up with unerring accuracy, whether the DX sent them or not. He has two reports, 20 dB over S9 and 40 dB over S9, but is unashamed of asking for repeats from such strong signals. He has excuses for everything—his splatter, the times when he transceives outside the band, why his beam was pointed wrong, why he has to go now (though he remains for several more QSOs), why he didn't keep a schedule or send a QSL, why he couldn't copy the S9 + 40 signal, and why he worked the rare DX for the fifteenth time.

He likes high gain beams, 5 KW linears, speech processors, broad-band microphones, low VSWR, rumors, "insider" DX tips, authoritative pronouncements (his) on new DXpeditions, certificates, QSLs received direct, pile-ups where he can blast through, transceive operation (so he doesn't have to look for DX or find where it's listening), more frequencies and privileges for him and fewer for CW, fake QSOs, "lists", YL operators, ALC, calling Charlie Queen Dog Xray, exotic accents, QSOs in a foreign language he understands, VOX, VFOs, DXCC and decibels.

A DX phone man renders public service in emergencies, especially if he can take pictures at the time for later publicity, and if the power company leaves his electricity on. He helps newcomers by teaching them how to press the microphone button or talk loud enough to trip the VOX. He will run a phone patch if it will improve relations with his neighbors or the planning commission, or it will bother another ham he dislikes. He has the amateur spirit of helpful cooperation except in pile-ups, or when he is interfered with, or when he alone has new DX information. He asks, "Is this frequency in use?", but ignores the reply and proceeds with his CQ or his tuning. To those he dislikes he has endless provocations: breathing raspily into the mike, allowing acoustic feedback to modulate the transmitter, strange chirps, making snide comments, tuning up, all anonymously on the DX frequency. He thinks "go" is the call sign identification required by the FCC. He "stands by for your final" and during it starts a new QSO.

He thinks a load line is a freight railroad, an FET is a new French island prefix, gate bias is a Halloween prank, a NOR gate is an open path to Europe, solid state is an ice cube, feedback is a letter to the editor, a field-strength indicator is a soil tester, a source follower is a narcotics agent, a driven element is a new type of weather control. He thinks white noise should be integrated with black noise and that an integrated circuit mixer is one who does it.

He has authoritative advice on any subject, from people and politics, religion and reason, houses and heifers, bosoms and bigots, emotions and education, fishing and fumigating; to transformers and tetrodes, phase and picofarads, radio and resistors, stereo and switching, video and voltage, multivibrators and matching, demodulators and distortion.

He can pontificate, filibuster, argue, harangue, rant, equivocate, boast, gossip, misinform, publicize, proclaim, declare, report, threaten, promise, intimidate, defy, abuse, denounce, expatriate, mispronounce, articulate, drawl, recite, condemn, lie, and swear; moreover, he frequently does all in the same deep breath.

But the DX phone man is the focal object of many. Manufacturers and distributors love him, CW men hate him, other phone men scorn him, the FCC tolerates him, newcomers patronize him, neighbors wish he would move away, and the DX wishes he would move off their frequency. So as long as he spends his money on new and better equipment, subscribes to the DX bulletins, magazines and tip sheets, sends \$1 for each new QSL he wants, and fends off his enemies, he will survive, and long after Armageddon, when the earth has been reduced to ashes and rubble, out of those remains the DX phone man will arise, whistle into the mike, and ask "Is anyone using this frequency?" and put forth his "Charlie Queen Dog Xray" for any survivor to hear.

(Apologies to Alan Beck,  
Author of "What is a Boy?"

## AN ANSWER FOR EVERY SITUATION

1. For every proposal, set up an opposite and then concede to a middle ground (no action at all).
2. Profess not to have the answer (this lets you out of having any answer at all)—while earnestly cautioning against proceeding too rapidly (which helps avoid ever getting started).
3. Emphasize righteously that "this program cannot be separated from other related problems." (Translation: We can't solve this problem until we have solved all related problems — which means never).
4. Ask what is meant by the question. (By the time this is explained to the satisfaction of even a small minority, it is time to go home.)
5. Earnestly caution the gathering that "we had better wait until we can consult an expert". Or, as an equally effective action-stopper: "Let's appoint a committee."
6. In closing, be sure to congratulate the problem. "It has stimulated discussion, contributed to growth, opened new vistas, and shown us the way." (We may have wasted two perfectly good hours, but that problem surely deserves a medal.).

## HOW TO BE A GOOD HAM CLUB MEMBER (WB6AHC)

(From the W6PIY Heterodyne, December, 1975)

### DO:

1. Come only to a meeting that has a speaker that interests you.
2. Come late to the meetings. That way you'll miss that boring business and disturb everyone else.
3. Point out all the hidden details of Robert's Rules of Order. Doesn't everyone care about nested amendments?
4. Bring your handi-talkie and leave it on during the meeting. They're all hams, and won't mind listening to the repeater and the speaker at the same time.
5. Complain about last year's Field Day. You were there for a whole hour and an expert, even if you didn't get a chance to operate.
6. Suggest some new type of club activity. After all, personal profit won't hurt the club or Amateur Radio.
7. Nominate your good buddy for office. Who cares if he wants to run or not?
8. Talk down RTTY, 220, SSB, SSTV and other funny things like OSCAR. Isn't Amateur Radio just CW and spark?
9. Generate publicity for the club. Load your old linear to 5 KW and work every TV set within a half mile.
10. Operate the club station, especially during the club meeting.
11. Bring your old junk to the club auction. Everyone will bid on 40 pounds of old transformers. Or else I'll donate them to the club, and won't have to haul them home again.
12. Leave right after the meeting. That way someone else will have to clean up the mess.
13. Pay your dues late. That way you'll miss the roster.

### DON'T:

1. Say anything at the meeting unless it is a dig into someone. After all, isn't that what club officers are for?
2. Volunteer. Isn't the first one the Chairman?
3. Accept a committee seat. It might take a whole hour of your time during the month and you can't afford to miss Captain Kangaroo.
4. Go out for coffee after the meeting with the boys.
5. Buy raffle tickets for the drawing. The prizes are just junk, anyway.
6. Bring your friends to the meetings to visit. The business meetings are too long and boring, besides, isn't Amateur Radio just for the chosen few?
7. Build anything. The commercial stuff is better and as easy to operate as a toaster.
8. Visit any board meetings.
9. Listen to the old timers. They don't know anything about Amateur Radio or the bands.
10. Listen to the young kids. Don't those radicals build things with transistors and ICs?
11. Offer the antenna committee anything to drink when they come to help with your antenna. Aren't those guys used to climbing towers in hot weather?
12. Put in a mobile rig. Then you have a good reason for not joining in club public service events.
13. Bring cookies to the meeting. Isn't just coffee good enough for everyone?
14. Check into club nets. That's just for Novices and old timers.
15. Contribute an article to the club paper. The Editor is smart and will always think of an article to fill the space up.
16. Help another ham. He will work it out by himself, or find another sucker.

## SPELLING AND COMMUNICATIONS

One of the most important elementry subjects taught in our schools is spelling. Today it is taught differently than when today's parents went toelementry school; no longer do we have emphasis on competition and the old-fashioned spelling bee. The child of today learns to spell in a variety of ways as his vocabulary grows: he learns the phonetic associations of diphthongs, vowels, consonance, and phrases which uniquely define essential characteristics of the written english language, and his grades are often based more on thought content and expression than on the literal correctness of punctuation and spelling. Lexicologists have for centuries puzzled the evolutionary problems of language and from their labours the orthographers have made a valient effort to include in the modern educational curriculums the derivations and idiomatic interpretations resulting from this research, to the end that the english dictionary of today contains innumerable alternatives which are orthographically correct. Traveling across these United States, we indeed find distinct differences in our language from west to east, north to south. Far from homogenius, our population is in fact heterogenius so that in any given educational institution one may find a plethora of accents and sematics becomes indeed a most important and inseperable part of modern spelling curriculums.

There are those among us who would view this situation with alarm. Dr. James L. Julian, promemint member of San Diego State College, pointed out recently that there are at least 6,480 ways to spell the word "psychology" without changing its meaning. To make his point, he showed that the name "Turner" can be spelled "phtholognyrrh" by taking the phth from phthistic, the olo from colonel, the gn from gnat and yrhh from myrrh. Also, it is well known that "ghoti" spells fish, if one takes the gh from cough, the o from women, and the ti from nation. Recent emphasis on a return to the old-fashioned mnemonic methods and to rote has been favored by many scholars not to mention a pedantic Admiral or two.

But what is the real underllyng purpose of spelling? Certainly meticulously correct spelling is not simply an ostentatious display of erudition, although it must be admitted one is criticised for spelling incorrectly. Is not communication the underllyng objective? With modern mechanical methods, a misspelled word can always be blamed on a faulty machine, and in fact often with meachines that are seemingly completely psychotic we find that there is still understanding, as is exemplified by the daily edition of any newspaper. So perhaps it is not so important after all to know that hemhorrage is really spelled hemorrhage or sometimes haemorrhage; the fact is that the man is bleeding and something should be done. If one writes to his doctor to complain of his plurisy, will the doctor in the mistaken belieif that the only acceptable word is pleurisy, refuse treatment? Suppose that when the physican's bill is paid, the patient dates the check in Feburary; would the doctor refuse to endorse it or the bank refuse to honor it? A \$20 bill would in fact be worth appreciabley more if it said "Federel Reserve Note".

So here is food for scholarly thought and discusson. With all of the vastly important things to be learned, should we be devoting a disproportianant amount of time to old-fashioned spelling, or should we be teaching the art of communication?

—R. W. Johnson

## HAM RADIO WRITING—USE OF A SHORT DIRECT STYLE

The great importance to the authors and editors of ham radio magazines of simplification of language and directness of statement in their technical writing and the elimination of jargon and unnecessary wordiness and the use of short direct statements instead of long and complicated sentences which are difficult to understand because the reader is apt to get lost among repetitions, qualifying phrases, and explanations long before he arrives, if he ever does, at the meaning intended by the writer, lies in its contribution to the saving of space and hence of cost in the finished articles and the increase of intelligibility and precision in the discussion for many descriptions, papers, instruction sheets, ordinary memoranda and assorted missives circulated within the Amateur Radio Community, some of them even by the ARRL, fail of their purpose, which requires the maintaining of interest and comprehension in the reader throughout their whole length, through the degoffing of their contents by the use of technical slang which only the initiated can hope to understand and of which even they cannot be entirely certain without reference to the keys needed for translating them, or by the incorporation in one sentence of a great many loosely connected and related ideas which might very well be dissociated if the author would only put a little thought on the problem of appropriately systematizing his ideas and expressing them clearly and straightforwardly in order to avoid confusing the reader, which is only too easy, so, though don't be too hopeful, for someone with unusual gifts and energy in applying them will manage triumphantly to misunderstand you no matter what you say or how carefully you say it, try saying what you have to say as simply and as directly as you can, then after you've said it, stop saying it and don't say it any more.

### PETEY THE SNAKE

Petey was a young snake. Petey lived in a pit with his mother. One day Petey was hissing in the pit when his mother said, "Petey, don't hiss in the pit, go outside the pit to hiss." So, Petey went outside of the pit to hiss.

Petey was hissing all around, when he finally leaned over and again hissed in the pit. Petey's mother became firm and said, "Petey if you must hiss in the pit, go over to Mrs. Pott's pit to hiss in her pit."

So Petey went over to Mrs. Pott's pit to hiss in her pit, but Mrs. Pott wasn't home, so he hissed in her pit anyway. While Petey was hissing in Mrs. Pott's pit, Mrs. Pott came home and found Petey hissing in her pit. She was angry and said, "Petey, if you must hiss in a pit, don't hiss in my pit, go to your own pit and hiss." This made Petey very sad, and he cried all the way home.

When Petey got home, his mother saw him crying and said, "Petey, what's the matter?" Petey said, "I went over to Mrs. Pott's to hiss in her pit, but Mrs. Pott was not at home, so I hissed in her pit anyway. Mrs. Pott came home and found me hissing in her pit and said, "Petey, if you must hiss in a pit, don't hiss in my pit, go to your own pit and hiss."

This made Petey's mother very mad, and she said, "Why that mean old lady. I knew Mrs. Pott when she didn't have a pit to hiss in."

# DX'll Get You

From *QST*, April 1970, p. 62.  
By permission.

## If You Don't Watch Out

BY ALBERT KAHN,\* K4FW ex-W8DUS

**H**AROLD was an active ham while still in high school, on the air occasionally while in college. During his early adult years, he maintained a casual interest in amateur radio, but spent most of his leisure hours with girls or playing golf.

After he married Helen and established a home his old interest in ham radio returned. Babies arrived and he began to move up within his company. In a few years he had become a division manager, moved to the suburbs, bought a second car, joined a country club and installed a set of beams including a full-size Yagi for 40.

Then something seemed to snap. Harold would slip away to the shack right after dinner, emerging long after the household was asleep. Although his alarm would ring at 6:00 A.M., he left the house later and later.

Harold began to have a dazed, faraway look. He rarely read anything except ham publications. His golf clubs gathered dust. Once a stimulating conversationalist, he became an intellectual blank. Helen and he rarely entertained and when they did, he would quietly slip away without a word of explanation.

For a long time his XYL bravely made excuses to their friends. "Harold is under such pressure at the office," she would say. No one believed her, especially his business associates.

Things at the office were not going too well. He was passed over several times when promotions were in order. A vice-president took him to lunch to attempt to find the cause of his decline. When he fell asleep at an important meeting the president called him in and gave him a stern warning.

Helen was distraught at the threatened break-up of their home. She could visualize

Harold — a derelict on skid-row and herself with her two children on relief. Finally she persuaded Harold to visit a psychiatrist and to resolve to kick this dreadful habit. He agreed.

The next morning Harold called a psychiatrist, a fellow ham whom he had met at the ham club. Because of the urgency he was invited to drop in that afternoon.

"Just relax on the couch, OM," said the doctor, "and tell me what is wrong."

"I'm hooked on DX," said Harold. "It is driving me nuts. Was going to quit at 300 countries, then I thought I'd go for 320, and so it went. Now I am trying to be the first with 400 confirmed."

"Why don't you try traffic, rag-chewing or vhf?" suggested the doctor. He continued, "DX is just a game. To enjoy it fully, you must put it in perspective and certainly not put it ahead of your family and job. No one should ever neglect his responsibilities for a hobby. What about rtty?"

Harold sobbed, "I've tried them all and just as I think I have a new hold on myself I run into something as I did this morning and just didn't go to work."

"Tell me about it."

"Well, BF0AA was calling CQ."

"BF0AA? What frequency?"

"14030 -- where are you going?"

The doctor was already out of the room. He returned with his hat and coat.

"See me again sometime," he shouted as he opened the outer door. "Got to go home for a while!"

\*Ten-Tec, Inc., Sevierville, Tenn. 37862

THIS IS A FREE TICKET

*It isn't good for anything;  
It's just free*

# Insula Nuevo

BY R. W. JOHNSON,\* W6MUR

**N**OT LONG after the FCC started issuing four-letter calls the DX bug bit Jules Silvergold III, W2BUKS, at his Long Island estate. He had lots of company, of course, for on the ARRL countries list were an even 500 "countries" and there were many opportunities for the Honor Roll Addicts (HRAs) to enlarge their habitat. As though trying to keep pace with the national debt which soared during the early years of the Cold War, ARRL had made the goal line an elastic affair, in keeping with the instability of the times.

Jules of course had the best — and the most — of everything. Harvard education in keeping with the family tradition, a different sports car for each day of the month, "Big Bertha" arrays scattered over the estate, and the latest that Art Collins could provide to his best customer. Jules Silvergold III was also an intelligent young man, in spite of his Harvard education, and his DX skill developed rapidly.

Only a few of the rarer Asian countries gave him any trouble on his way to the top. This problem was solved by his father, who gave Jules on his twenty-third birthday an expedition to those places. Jules had even worked the island about 550 miles from Hawaii that appeared briefly after a suboceanic volcanic eruption back in 1965, by financing a helicopter expedition out there from Honolulu. That one was close, for he had just finished the QSO when the island disappeared again. But Jules was still tied at the top of the Honor Roll, for he had missed the other island like that because of plane trouble. So Jules was *there*, along with several dozen others, with no place to go but down. For a Silvergold, this was intolerable.

Jules discussed his problem with ARRL during the dedication ceremony for the new station his father had donated to W1AW, but with little satisfaction. The bitter truth was that there were simply no more countries until the U. N. could finally succeed in its proposal to rearrange the world boundaries. Every rock had been designated. Jules was apparently stalemate.

But Jules Silvergold III had not gone to Harvard without acquiring ingenuity and determination; a tie was not the place for him. His inheritance from Grandfather's estate came to him on his 25th birthday, and he was independently wealthy for the first time in his life. With inspiration, he set about to solve his problem in typically American fashion. His first step was to obtain the latest hydrographic maps of the world's oceans, and pick out all the charted reefs. Down in Texas

someplace he located one of the famous wanderers of the late 50s who had discovered a few new uncharted reefs the hard way, and plotted these too. Jules then organized the most ingenious DXpedition ever devised. He hired one of the country's largest construction contractors and commissioned him to a series of projects far more useful than the Foreign Aid people had yet conceived. The idea was brilliant, and even Jules' classmates were proud of him. A number of Liberty ships were bought from their mothball berths, and outfitted. One by one, the ships were towed out to the reefs Jules had selected, and carefully grounded. Using the grounded ship as headquarters, the construction crews unloaded barges full of rock and concrete around the ship until an island began to form as a long, slender tenacle of rock leading away from the grounded ship. An antenna mast was placed at the far end, and the wire run to the ship. There, from the comfort of an air-conditioned radio room, the transmitters were fired up and a prearranged, unidentified signal was sent to Jules listening back in Long Island. Jules set his automatic control equipment with pre-recorded message, bade his servants goodbye, and headed for Idlewild.

Hours later, Jules arrived by his private helicopter at his newly-made island, and calmly settled down in the radio room to call his first CQ. This triggered his automatic equipment in Long Island, which called him (10 up, of course). He replied with the usual "599, QSL via bureau." The second automatic transmission came through loud and clear, "Sure gl'd to be the first to wrk u as new country OM BT PSE QSL for my DX5C BT 73 es pse listen fer WIFH es W6CUQ." Jules then settled back with a cool Martini in one hand to enjoy the music of the din, trying to see how many HRAs he could pick out of the pile. With his other hand he calmly turned off the transmitter.



As the last man left the reef, he pressed the detonator button setting off a chain of TNT charges planted under the rock and the grounded ship, and Insula Nuevo was no more. Jules was back at Long Island, filling out QSL cards and deciding which reef would be next in his new-found masochism.

**QST**

\* 9372 Hillview Road, Anaheim, California.

# The Great Dilemma



Yes I know,  $f = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{LC}}$  but where in he.. is the switch?

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

To properly understand the various Notices of Proposed Rulemaking and FCC Reports and Orders you need the following cross index giving the true meaning of terms commonly used.

In Process	So wrapped up in red tape that the situation is almost hopeless
Looking Into It	By the time the wheel makes a full turn, we assume you will have forgotten about it
Expedite	To confound confusion with commotion
Channels	The guy who has a desk between two expeditors
Consultant	Any ordinary guy more than 50 miles from home, or a man with a briefcase from out of town
Activate	Make carbons and add more names to the distribution list
Implement	Hire more people and expand the office
Under Study	Never heard of it
Under Active Study	We're searching the files for it
Meeting	A mass mulling by master-minds
Conference	A place where conversation is substituted for the dreariness of labor and the loneliness of thought
Negotiate	To seek a meeting of minds, without a knocking together of heads
Reorientation	Getting used to working again
Reliable Source	The guy you just met
Informed Source	The guy who told the guy you just met
Unimpeachable Source	The guy who started the rumor originally
Clarification	To fill in the background with so many details that the foreground goes underground
Making a Survey	We need more time to think of an answer
Note and Initial	Let's spread the responsibility for this one
Let's Discuss	Come down to my office, I'm lonesome
Let's Get Together	I'm assuming you're as confused as I am
Combining Petitions	This way we won't have to answer most of them
It appearing	That's the way we want to see it, not the way it is

**ADVANCED CLASS CB EXAM**

1. If you went to bed at 8 at night and set the alarm to get up at 9 in the morning, how many hours of sleep would this permit you to have? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do they have a Fourth of July in England? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why can't a man living in Winston Salem, N. C. be buried west of the Mississippi River? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many birthdays does the average man have? \_\_\_\_\_
5. If you had only one match and entered a room in which there was a kerosene lamp, an oil burner and a wood stove, which would you light first?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. If a doctor gave you three pills and told you to take one every half hour, how long would they last? \_\_\_\_\_
7. A ham built a home with four sides to it, rectangular in shape. Each side has a southern exposure. A big bear came by; what color is the bear? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How far can a dog run into the woods? \_\_\_\_\_
9. You have in your hand two U.S. coins that total 55 cents in face value. One is not a nickel. What are the coins? \_\_\_\_\_
10. A farmer had seventeen sheep. All but nine died. How many did he have left? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Two men playing chess with each other played five games and each man won the same number of games. How can this be so? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Take two apples from three apples and what do you have? \_\_\_\_\_
13. An archaeologist claimed he had found gold coins dated 46 B.C. Do you think he did? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_
14. A woman gave a beggar 50 cents. The woman is the beggar's sister, but the beggar is not the woman's brother. Why is this? \_\_\_\_\_
15. How many of each species did Moses take aboard the Ark with him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
16. Is it legal for a man in California to marry his widow's sister? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Which word in this examination is misspelled? \_\_\_\_\_

## **EXTRA CLASS CB EXAM Timed Test — Three Minutes Only!**

1. Read everything carefully before doing anything.
2. Put your name in the upper right hand corner of this paper.
3. Draw a resistor symbol in the upper left corner.
4. Draw the FET symbol under your last name.
5. Draw a diode symbol between the gate and source on the FET.
6. Draw four small squares along the right margin of this paper.
7. Place an "X" in each of the squares.
8. Draw a triangle around the resistor symbol.
9. Draw a circle around the diode symbol.
10. On the back of this paper, compute the area of a 3" diameter circle.
11. Loudly call out your first name when you get this far along.
12. If you think you've followed directions carefully to this point, call out "I HAVE."
13. On the back of this paper, compute the circumference of the 3" circle.
14. Draw a square around your answer to the last question.
15. Cross out direction 10 by drawing a line through it.
16. Draw a circle around all the even numbers down to this point except those divisible by 5.
17. If you are the first to reach this point, call out loudly, "I am the first person to follow directions to this point."
18. Sketch a three-element beam in the left-hand margin opposite direction 6.
19. Draw a line connecting the driven element of the beam with the FET drain.
20. Loudly call out, "I am nearly finished, I have followed directions."
21. Fold over the left-hand corner of this paper about 1" from the corner and poke a hole through the double thickness with your pencil.
22. Now that you have finished reading everything carefully, do only directions one and two.

**Before the  
FEDERAL CONFUSION COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of

Amendment of Part 97 of the  
Commission's Rules concerning  
the Amateur Radio Service

Docket No. 88-73

RM-6741      RM-7632  
RM-8543      RM-9454

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE UNMAKING**

**Adopted: March 1, 1979; Released: April 1, 1979**

By the Commission: Commissioner Hambone absent

1. The Commission has before it the above listed petitions for rule making. Principally, petitioners are seeking repeal of the Rules for the Amateur Radio Service on various grounds, all reducing to essentially the same point, that the Interstate Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution, which furnishes the Constitutional authority for the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, cannot apply to amateurs because they are not involved in commerce.
2. Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution gives the Congress the power "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes." In *Gibbons v. Ogden* (9 Wheaton, 1) it was said by Chief Justice Marshall that commerce was intercourse—commercial intercourse in all its branches, including navigation and the carriage of passengers as well as goods. In 1877 it was decided that the business of sending telegraph messages was commerce. It has several times been decided that where intercourse is not involved in the transaction it is not commerce. Manufacturing is not commerce, nor is agriculture, nor mining, nor fishing. "Commerce succeeds to manufacture, and is not a part of it." "Commerce" is defined in Black's Law Dictionary as "The exchange of goods, productions or property of any kind."
3. Petitioners argue that since there is no consideration, no exchange of payment or trade of one thing of value for another; and that the only intercourse is that of another kind which so far, at least, has been exempted from regulation by the Federal Government except indirectly by the provision of income tax deductions for dependents; that amateur radio communications are not commerce although they clearly cross State and even U.S. borders, or are capable of doing so. This argument is compelling, but there are problems with it. We assert that without regulation, that is, rules establishing that there be no consideration for communications by amateurs, such consideration would most surely occur. Thus we are presented with a dilemma: By petitioners' argument, we have no authority to regulate because there is no commerce; but if we do not so regulate, there will be commerce, then giving us the authority to regulate. But as soon as we regulate to prohibit remuneration, there once again ceases to be commerce and we once more have no authority to regulate. Thus if we do not regulate, we have the authority; if we do regulate, we do not have the authority. We find this a paradoxical position to be in, somewhat analogous to the famous "CATCH 22".

4. The Commission has pondered this paradox ever since the filing of RM-6741 in this matter back in 1976. We have undergone several changes of Commissioners in that period, and in the 1977 revision of the Communications Act there were five additional Commissioners added to the Commission. Each time new Commissioners have appeared we have had to start over on the paradox so that the new Commissioners could be properly briefed. We have not succeeded in answering all of our problems; indeed, we sometimes feel we have not completely answered any of them. The answers we have found have only served to raise a whole set of new questions. In some ways we feel that we are as confused as ever, but we think we are confused on a higher level, and about more important things.

5. At this point in time, however, we have reached a conclusion. The basis for this conclusion has been fortuitously thrust upon us by the concessions made to our many friends at the World Administrative Radio Conference in 1979, earlier this year. At WARC it was agreed that the U.S. position paper (See Appendix I) would be accepted by the World Community of Nations. The new treaty when ratified will give to the Amateur Radio Service shared use of the spectrum between 3500 and 4000 kHz and exclusive use of the spectrum between 3502 and 3504 kHz.

6. Since under the new treaty we expect that no amateurs will be able to communicate at all, there is clearly no interstate commerce. That is, the spectrum between 3500 and 4000 kHz is shared with the noted exception, to such an extent that the mere presence of 600,000 amateurs of the world surely will not be noticed. Since most of that number, finding the remainder of the band untenable, will move to the exclusively amateur segment 3502—3504 kHz, that too will become untenable. Thus our paradox, over which we have agonized for years, has now vanished.

7. Accordingly, we propose to unmake all rules in Part 97 by repealing that Part, effective upon the date of the Final Report and Order. Authority for the proposed rule unmaking is contained in Sec. 4(i) and 303 of the Communications Act of 1984, as amended, and in Section 8,644,730 of the Communications Act of 1977, under subheading (A)(2)(z)(19)(iiii).

8. Pursuant to applicable procedures set forth in Sec. 1.415 of the Commission's Rules, interested persons may file comments on or before June 1, 1979, and reply comments on or before July 1, 1979. All relevant and timely comments and reply comments will be considered by the Commission before final action is taken in the proceeding. In reaching its decision on the rules which we are proposing to unmake, the Commission may also take into account other relevant information before it, in addition to the specific comments invited by this Notice.

9. In accordance with the provision of Sec. 1.419 of the Commission's Rules, as amended on April 1, 1977, an original and 1,492 copies of all comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission. We have just purchased 84,000 new filing cabinets and we need material to fill them.

10. All filings in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties (if we can find them in the files) during regular business hours in the Commission's public reference room, which now has been moved to occupy the entire south wing of the Smithsonian Institution.

Signed,  
P. Ure Hogwash  
Secretary

## APPENDIX I

### WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE

#### Position Paper of the United States

Preface by Serous Pants, Secretary of State:

"Since the inauguration of 1977, the Department of State has been studying the position the United States ought to take with regard to the world reallocation of frequency spectrum. We have concluded that the position that should prevail is the usual one of prone, with posterior elevated."

The need for radio frequencies for international long-range ballistic missile and interplanetary satellite detection is clearly superior to mere commercial, governmental and amateur uses of spectrum, and transcends all other requirements for the reason that the survival of humanity requires that such vehicles of mass destruction must be promptly detected and neutralized.

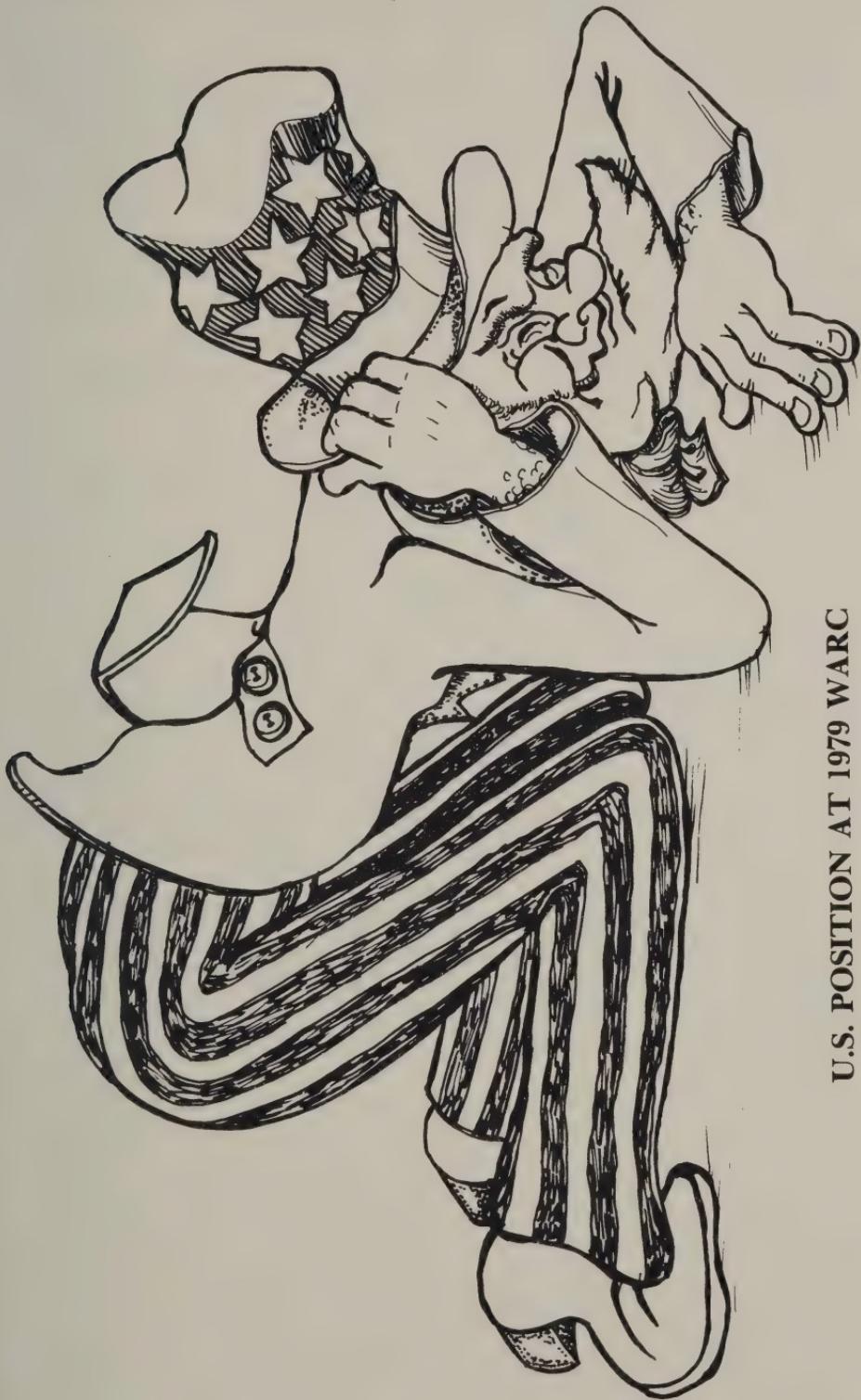
Since 1976, our friends in the Soviet have discovered that the most feasible way to furnish adequate early warning of such intrusions is by the radiation of frequency-modulated ramp functions from super-power transmitters radiating through high-gain, broad-band antennas, at repetition rates of 5—10 ramps per second.

At first, the Soviet experiments with these detection devices caused some flurry of complaints from other radio spectrum users. Since the complaints were ignored, however, the rest of the world has become accustomed to these signals and circuits have been developed to disregard them.

The principal problem that has arisen, however, is that the use of these frequencies, spanning from about 5 mHz to 30 mHz, by other stations may set up a situation where false returns are produced on the Soviet scanning and display equipment that may be misinterpreted as a forthcoming attack. This could, in turn, trigger a totally destructive, though unwarranted response which could mean the end of civilization.

Therefore, and upon careful computer analysis of the game strategies involved, it is our considered conclusion that the frequency spectrum from 5 to 30 mHz should be exclusively set aside for such wide-band FM activity by the Soviet on a worldwide basis.

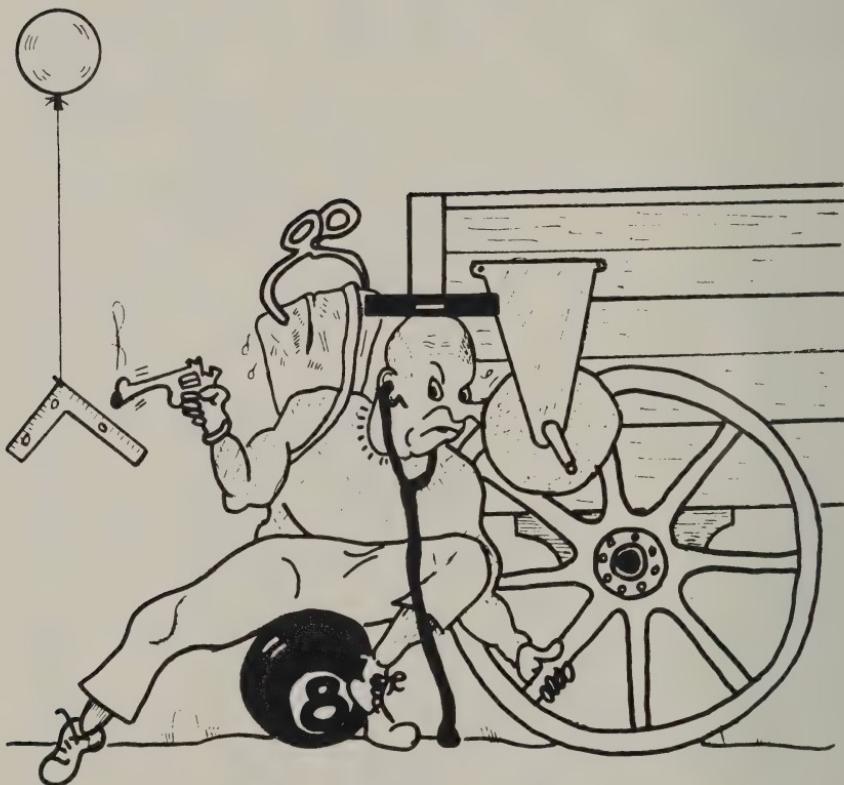
It is our recommendation, therefore, that all services using the frequencies 5—30 mHz be reallocated into the 3—5 mHz spectrum, with the band 3.5—4.0 mHz retained as shared between amateurs, AFSK radioteletypes, AM, FM, and SSB broadcast, noise jammers, aircraft, marine, radiolocation, point-to-point CW, and press wireless. Amateurs should be given exclusive use of the entire spectrum between 3502 and 3504 kHz, and of the other 3.5—4.0 mHz frequencies on a non-interference basis. CBers may operate wherever they can find room, as they usually do.



U.S. POSITION AT 1979 WARC

## PORTRAIT OF A NCDX'ER

He is a square shooter. He is on his toes every minute. He is on the ball, has both feet on the ground, his shoulder to the wheel and his nose to the grindstone. He keeps a stiff upper lip and his ears to the ground except when listening for DX. Last but not least he has level head and keeps cool at all times.



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## Author

The author is a professional consulting engineer, business executive, writer and lecturer. First licensed in 1935 by the call he holds today, W6MUR, Mr. Johnson is an accomplished DXer and contest operator, Life Member of the ARRL and QCWA, A-1 Operator, and a Fellow of the Radio Club of America.

Mr. Johnson's first book, "How to Defend Yourself in Traffic Court", has been widely sold since it was first published in 1972.

This book on Ham Radio Humor is the first of its kind. If you enjoy reading it half as much as the author did writing it, it will become part of every ham's library.

